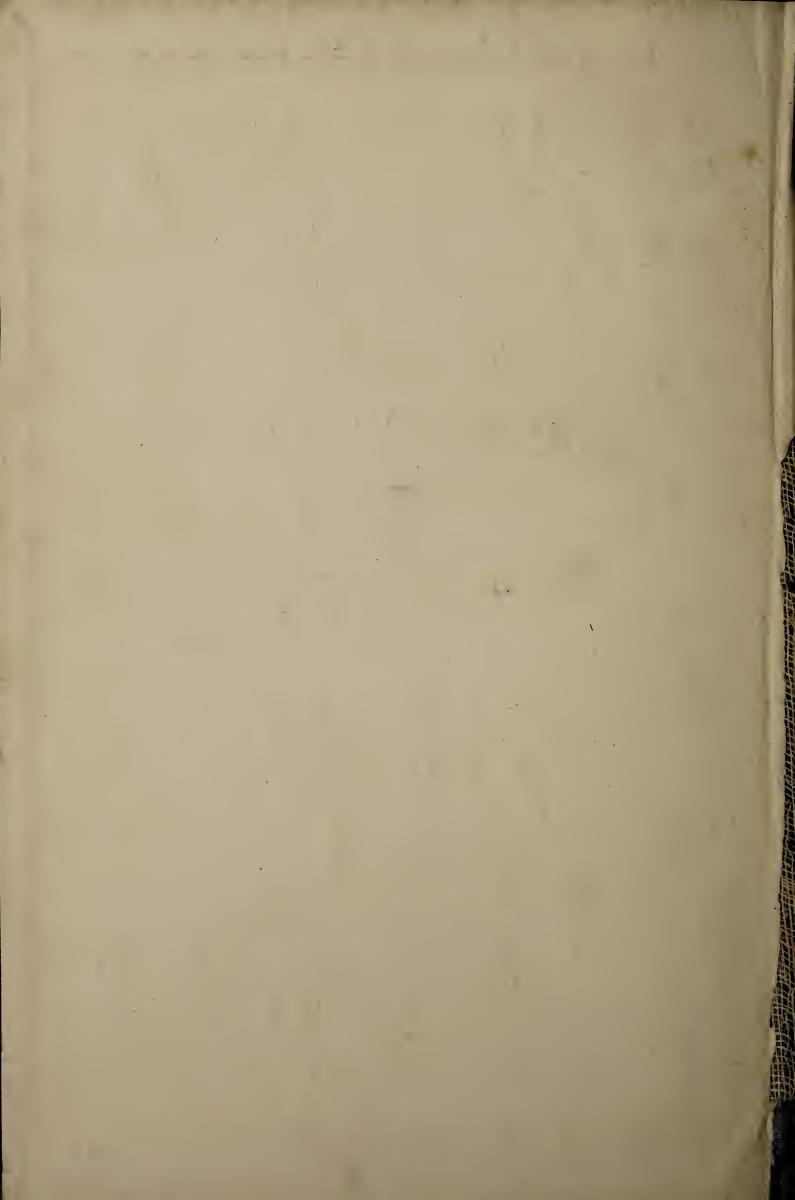
# The Faith of Our Fathers

By B. E. Rediger



mr & mrs Je Rinny in 7/3 Archer and city







By Courtesy of H. Ross Masterson Studio, 1928 Broadway

B. E. REDIGER

## The Faith of Our Fathers

By

B. E. REDIGER

Founder --- Evangelist

Fort Wayne Gospel Tabernacle

Fort Wayne, Indiana



Published by the Author



Printed by the
ECONOMY PRINTING CONCERN, INC.
Berne, Indiana, 1929

Copyright, 1929 **by** В. Е. REDIGER

#### **DEDICATORY**

To my departed mother, whose faith in the Lord, and whose holy life of prayer kept me in the road that leads to Christ, during those years when so many make ship-wreck of their lives, when the glitter and offers of the world sweep many off their feet and land them in eternal fogs of sin and ruin.

To my dear wife, whose consecration to God and His service, and whose devotion to our children and to myself, in this strenuous life has under God, not only made this book possible, but the work which He is forming under my hands.

To my three children, Rhoda Eileene, Romayne Magdalene and Arvilla Eunice, whose prayers, too, have often been an inspiration to me in the greatest conflicts, and whose entire lives have been dedicated to God, even before they were born, is this volume now dedicated.



### CONTENTS



PART I—FAITH UNFOLDED
Pag
Chapter 1—What Is Faith?
Chapter 2—The Importance Of Faith 1
Chapter 3—How To Receive Faith 2
Chapter 4—The Venture Of Faith 3
Chapter 5—The Test Of Faith 4
Chapter 6—The Growth Of Faith 4
PART II—FAITH TO BE BORN AGAIN
Chapter 1—Faith In The Lord Our Saviour
FROM ALL SIN 5
Chapter 2—Faith In The Father To Receive You - 6
Chapter 3—Faith To Become A Son Of God - 6
PART III—FAITH IN THE LORD THY PHYSI CIAN
Chapter 1—FAITH IN THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR BODIES 7
Chapter 2—FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISES 8
Chapter 3—Faith In God's Prescription 9
Chapter 4—FAITH IN THE SIMPLE ACT OF OBEDIENCE - 10
PART IV—FAITH IN GOD FOR ALL THINGS
Chapter 1—Faith "In The Living God Who Giveth Us Richly All Things To Enjoy" - 11
PART V—FAITH IN THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST
Chapter 1—FAITH IN JESUS THE MIGHTY BAPTIZER - 12
Chapter 2—One GLIMPSE OF JESUS BY FAITH - 13
Chapter 3—FAITH IN HIS ABIDING PRESENCE 14
•

PART VI—FAITH IN THE LORD'S RETUR	N
	Page
Chapter 1—Faith In The Time Of The Lord's Coming	151
Chapter 2—Faith In What The Lord Said As To	
How His Return Would Affect The Saints	162
Chapter 3—Faith In What The Lord Said As To How	
HIS COMING WOULD AFFECT THE UNSAVED	175
Chapter 4—FAITH IN WHAT THE LORD SAID AS TO HOW	
HIS RETURN WOULD AFFECT THE UNIVERSE	100
In General	188
PART VII—CONCLUDING REMARKS AND	

### PART VII—CONCLUDING REMARKS AND EXPERIENCES IN THE LIFE OF FAITH

Chapter 1—A Personal Appeal To The Life Of Faith 194

#### **FOREWORD**

Before writing this book I have well considered the proverb: "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness to the flesh."

However, I feel definitely led of the Holy Spirit to go forward, since He commands, under His own personal direction, as much as is possible with the human limitations of man.

The subject is a very common one. But I have found that the most common Truths are often the greatest essentials, and not infrequently we are most ignorant of those things very close at home.

So in this volume it is my object to bring to a plain and easy grasp that Truth which will help you to better understand the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and to lead into that higher realm of Christian living which will make our fellowship with Him complete, and the world will see in our lives the reality of the salvation which is of God by faith.



## PART ONE Faith Unfolded

#### CHAPTER 1

#### WHAT IS FAITH?

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. Authorized Version.

"Now faith is a well-grounded assurance of that for which we hope, and a conviction of the reality of things we do not see."—Hebrews 11:1. Weymouth Transl.

These two translations together with the translation by Luther give a clear definition of this Truth.

Very many honest Christians in the world today do not live the life of faith. Their experience is a perplexing one. They look at faith as mystical. Many mistake feeling for faith. Some believe that if they feel good and happy then they have a great deal of faith. They feel then that the Lord is near them. Then, again, when they do not feel good and when they do not feel so happy they are led to

think that the Lord is after all not so near, and in this condition the enemy plays havoc with their poor souls.

The Word of God is very definite on this subject as so much of your success as a Christian depends on this great Truth. It would almost be a tragedy if people would simply get a blessing from the Lord and not receive that true faith with which they could unlock the storehouse of heaven and receive all they wanted at any time.

My dear brother and sister, I want you to understand that faith is more than a blessing. Faith is a key with which you can come again and again and receive from His bountiful storehouse, and not only a small amount but all that your faith will lay hold for.

There are two very definite truths about this great verse standing at the head of that great faith chapter: First, "Faith is the substance" or as Weymouth has it, "Faith is a well-grounded assurance." This goes to prove that faith is not what most people think, a sort of mystical affair that you have to grab for and then trust to luck if you get it or not. Many people again mistake faith for an impression. They have a strong impulse along one line and

they think that is faith. But the Lord comes right down to our every-day expression and makes it so clear that all of us can readily understand just what faith is. Faith is a wellgrounded assurance. It is an assurance that is well-grounded. That is, it is an assurance based upon something real, something reliable. A man may want to borrow money from a bank. The cashier knows that this man owns stocks and bonds and farms to exceed his loan many times. Then, too, he knows this man to be an honest man, who does not fail to keep his word. He readily accepts his note for the amount and would tell you that he has a well-grounded assurance that at the appointed time the money would be paid back with interest according to the note. This in a very very small way illustrates what a well-grounded assurance is. Now we cannot fully compare this to the Lord. The very best man may not be able to keep his word. But God is always able. So our wellgrounded assurance rests upon the promise that the Lord has made in His Word. The wellgrounded assurance is that God has always kept His Word. With all the men and women that have ever trusted the Lord not one of them found God unfaithful. Joshua, the great military leader for the children of Israel, a man who no doubt had seen more of the promises of God come true in a national way than any other living man, declared in the last few moments of his life, "And behold this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Joshua 23:14.

What a tremendous statement for a military leader to make on his dying day. A man who had seen the miracles in Egypt, seen the firstborn slain, in that night when the Lord passed over all the dwellings which had blood sprinkled on their door posts and lintels; a man who had seen the red sea part, and all the wonders of that wilderness journey. And then as they entered the land of Caanan he had seen the walls of Jericho fall, and now at the close of his life he declares that not one of the promises of God had failed. O what a well-grounded assurance we have today! A God who has been faithful to all the millions who have dared to trust Him, who is unlimited in power and has written His promises in the Bible, surely can be

trusted. What better security than this would anybody want. What more could the most exacting ask for?

Second, "Faith is the evidence of things not seen." Some people will pray for a while and then they will say that they have received the evidence. If someone would write to you and tell you that he was going to give you a thousand dollars and you knew that he was a man of his word and that he was well able to do it, you naturally would rejoice. There would be a great big feeling creep all over you. You would rejoice and be happy over it. After a while someone would come in and of course you would tell them of all that had taken place. But they would say, "How do you know that you are going to receive those thousand dollars?" "O," you would exclaim, "there was such a great feeling went all over me at the time and I just know it must be real." What would you think of such an evidence as that? And yet that is just what a great many good, honest Christian people are doing and have been doing for centuries. Now the fact of the matter is this: While we will admit that the feeling was grand of that person who had a thousand dollars promised, yet that feeling did not and will not play

one part in the giving or the receiving of that money. No, the evidence is the written promise of a man that is able and willing to make good what he had promised.

When God promises in His Word that He will forgive your sins if you confess them and you stake all your claim on that promise of God, that is faith. You are at the end of yourself. You know that you cannot save yourself but there in that hour when you are living on the verge of eternity you have confessed it all to Him and you go out with joy, while you cannot see into eternity, yet there with joy you are resting it all on His promise, that is faith.

I promise to meet you at a certain place to-morrow at ten o'clock. At nine o'clock you begin to get ready. You say, "Mr. Rediger has promised to meet me at a certain place at ten o'clock and I do not want to be late." You drop all else and go. That is faith. You do not stop to see if you feel that I will make my word good but after you have heard me say that I will meet you, it is settled and you do not continually ask yourself, "I wonder if he really will be there or not."

The baby screams at the sight of a dog. But once it is up in the arms of its mother it lays its

head down and goes to sleep. That is faith.

If people today would deal with the Lord with as much sincerity as they deal with each other, how much different most of our lives would be. How it must grieve His loving heart as He sees that we distrust Him so, or when He sees how we handle His Word with gloves, or act as though we were reading in another language when we are reading the Word of God.

The father has faith in the mother, and the mother has faith in the father, and both of them have faith in their children, and the children have faith in their parents. Show me such a family as that and I will invariably show you a happy family, other things being equal. How strange that we should look on the Lord as being some exacting grammarian, before whom we dare not make a mistake in the wording of our prayers. How sweet to know that the Lord heard us say the first word that ever crossed our lips. He knew our needs long time before we could compose a sentence. Little wonder that Jesus said: "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter in the kingdom of heaven."

If you were to come home from a long

journey and upon entering your home, you would stand before your mother and repeat a nice poem in the nicest way possible, would your mother really truly enjoy that? No, she would rather hear the words of your own make up. Even though your English would not be perfect, yet she would rejoice more over your words, yes, your very own heart's expression than over the best composed poem that she had ever heard. And so the Lord is not looking for some one to address Him with the best literary skill, but wherever there is a heart that cries out to Him regardless of what language it may use, there is His ear inclined. There is His arm outstretched. There is His mercy extended.

Faith is the most real thing in all the world, and best of all is this that He tells us just how to receive it into our own hearts and into our own lives.

This I want to show you in one of the next chapters, "How to Receive Faith."

#### CHAPTER II

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6.

There are some things that we cannot do without, some things that are vital. One of these things is faith. Some things are only of secondary importance, and too often we spend our short lives on trifling things.

But our text tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. So no matter what we may have, if we do not have faith, it is impossible to please Him. If we would gain a favor of any one, we must first learn how we may please him. And surely in order to be able to gain favor with the Lord we must please Him. We do not want to please Him to see how much we can get out of Him, but we want to please Him because we really love Him. We will do all in our power to please one whom we really love.

As we look into this great truth we are examining the channel through which the Lord has promised to pour out all of His bountiful blessings. This is the only channel through which He lets down His rich treasures to His dear children. This is the realm in which God operates. Satan works His delusions in the realm of feeling. And as we learn to soar higher up into this realm of faith we will find that the devil cannot follow us up there. When the eagle finds himself surrounded by a great drove of birds that he knows he cannot fight off, he simply begins to soar. And so the Lord says "They that wait upon thee shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isa. 40:31. All the promises in the Word of God are for the one that believes His Word, or believes what the Lord has said about that particular thing in question. So if we want to do business with the Lord we must make up our minds that we will have to do it in the realm of faith. We must leave the haunts of doubt and begin to look for higher quarters.

The steps of many are uncertain simply because they have never found the way of true

Bible Faith. O how many Christians might be happy and rejoice in the Lord if they only understood the walk of faith. Many souls never accomplish anything for the Lord simply because they are tossed about in their own Christian life. They are living in the realm of feeling and the devil improves the opportunity to make them of no account in the service of Jesus. If they do not lose their souls, they at least do not do the devil any damage. And so the enemy has his delight in tormenting poor souls until they are almost ready to give up in sheer despair.

In Luther's translation of Heb. 11:7 we read that, "through faith Noah honored God." That is, through faith he built the ark and it was in the building of the ark that he proved that he really believed what the Lord had said would come to pass. In I Sam. 2:30 we read, "Them that honor me, I will honor; and they that despise me, shall be lightly esteemed." The great way to honor the Lord is not by doing some great thing through which your name will be published in the newspapers all over the land, but He says in Ps. 147; 10, 11," He delighteth not in the strength of the horse, He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man; the

Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy." Of all the great men in the world, the one that the Lord really takes pleasure in is the one that hopes in His mercy.

Peter went well for a time until He lost faith. And so today the ways of the Lord have not changed with the fashions of the age, so that you hardly know what to wear to avoid the ridicule of the world, but His dealings with men today are still on the same basis of true, humble, child-like faith. O what promises are to the one that simply believes God's Word for He says in Mark 11:23—"And shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

That man without faith gets nothing. The man with faith is made heir of all things. Some will say they have faith, and when the Lord makes some plain statement which they cannot see through they will frankly deny it, or say that it cannot be done. To have faith in God's Word means that though I do not understand how it may be done, yet if He has promised it, faith still believes though from a natural standpoint it may seem utterly impossible.

Now while we must have faith, and while it is utterly impossible to please the Lord without faith, and though we are unable to get anything from the great storehouse of heaven without it, yet in the next few chapters I will show you, if you really want to know how simple and easy it is to obtain this faith that will work miracles. It is not only for a chosen few, but for whosoever that is willing to come the Bible way.

This is one truth which the Saviour and the apostles taught as they went from one village to another. The Lord says, "My people perish for want of knowledge." And so while there may be a table spread with all the rich bounties of earth, if you do not know how to make them your own, you may starve right near the table. The one thing that will help the reader to see into these sweet truths more than anything else, is this: commit yourself definitely to the Lord as you peruse these pages. Ask Him to open your eyes that you may see that which He has wrought out on Calvary for you. Then as you read and meditate you will not hurriedly read through the book hoping then to have obtained your end of some spiritual or physical blessing, but will linger over these Truths as one lingers

near one he really loves. As you come to the references quoted, it will help you so much if you look them up in your own Bible. It is as you see the setting of these verses that you will really get more benefit for yourself as you read the balance of this little volume.

Perhaps you are seeking to be saved. you may be longing for the Holy Spirit to fill you with Himself. Or your body may be afflicted. Do not hurriedly run over the book, but give the Lord time to speak to your own heart. Get real quiet before Him. You will find that by thus taking time with Him your own faith will rise unconsciously in your bosom. to the Lord to undertake for you while you are reading. That is; just forget about your need now for the time being and let yourself swim in the great promises of the Lord. And it will be that before you are through reading this book that you will be an entirely new person spiritually, mentally and physically. Praise His Name!

#### CHAPTER III

The way of the same

#### HOW TO RECEIVE FAITH

"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God," Rom. 10:17.

After the Word of God plainly tells us the only way by which we may obtain anything of the Lord and after we have seen that "without faith it is impossible to please Him," and after we have seen that faith is a sane, reasonable, Biblical asset of the Christians and not a fanatical idea of a mysterious nothing, the very next question then is "How may I receive this miracle-working faith?"

Some people will say when you approach them in regards to their Christian life, "I am doing the best that I can," or if you ask them if they believe the Lord will heal them, they will say, "I am trying to have faith." In both cases they are trying to do something themselves. Now the Lord plainly tells us that faith does not come by trying, but says that "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God," or "Faith cometh by . . . . the Word of

God." He tells us exactly how we may expect to obtain faith.

If a man who was not acquainted with the laws of agriculture would go to the farm to make a livelihood, but instead of planting his corn he would try to pull the sprout out of the kernel of corn by some method of his own. If some would ask him if he was going to have a crop, he would answer, "I am trying to have a crop,"-to be sure he was trying, but he was doing it all wrong, and in that way he would never have a crop. And yet that is exactly what many are doing today. They are trying to work up a feeling that they will be saved or healed or filled with the Holy Spirit, but they never receive anything simply because they, like the man on that farm, are not doing the right thing.

Some one will hear of some good meetings going on in the neighborhood, but instead of going there and then searching the Word of God daily whether those things be so like the Bereans did, he goes to some half profane person or some luke-warm preacher and asks him what he thinks about those meetings and what about the truth which is being preached, and of course if the meetings are highly spiritual the

persons whom I have alluded to will invariably warn him not to take any stock in it or to beware lest he too will fall into the same fanaticism.

Then instead of listening to the Word of God he listens to the words of either this half profane man or of this preacher who is merely trying to hold a job down, and of course he does not receive faith and then is led to believe that these two men have given him the correct advice. Notice, that faith cometh by hearing the Word of God, and not by hearing the opinion of some good or bad person. The Psalmist says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." This does not necessarily mean a notorious robber or criminal, but any one that would advise you contrary to the plain teachings of God. This is ungodly. Not like God. And surely anyone that would advise you not to go according to the Word of God would be an ungodly man, no matter what position he or she may hold in social or church work.

Any man that will plainly follow the way mapped out will find that faith will spring up in his heart even more naturally than corn will spring up if planted in nice garden soil in the spring of the year, after a nice warm rain.

It is the Word of God itself that will beget faith in your own heart and without you constantly fearing, least you may not obtain the required amount of faith. You yourself will be surprised how easy it is to really trust such a faithful Friend. Faith will never come by trying to have it, but, thank the Lord, it will come in the way which God has promised.

As we turn to the very beginning of the Word of God we notice that God promised to Adam and Eve a Deliverer even before they left the garden of Eden, "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head," Gen. 3:15, meaning that Jesus Christ, who was the seed of the woman and not the seed of man, would destroy the works of the devil.

Then as we read on through the types and see how that the people received forgiveness and healing through faith in the type, how our faith will begin to rise. The children of Israel were in the wilderness and much discouraged because of the way. And right there is where we usually miss the way. When we become discouraged the devil has a special opportunity to side-track us.

Then they began to murmur and complain. The Lord permitted the fiery serpents to come and bite the people and very many of the people died. But they saw their mistake and their sin and cried to Moses, "We have sinned," and no sooner had they confessed their sin but what the Lord called to Moses, after he had prayed for them, and told him to make a brazen serpent and put it upon a pole and promised deliverance to every one that looked at the serpent on that pole. And it came to pass exactly as the Lord had told him. For as many as looked were not only forgiven, but were healed. Many will say, "The Lord will forgive you, but you will have to suffer for the sins of your thoughtless years." O what poor creatures most people would be if they would have to suffer for all their sins all their lives. No, a thousand times lesus suffered for our sins. the for the unjust, that He might bring God. Jesus did the suffering and declares that "as far as the east is removed from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Then Jesus Himself says in John 3, 14, 15, "For as Moses lifted up a serpent in the wilderness, even so

ever believeth on Him should not perish but have eternal life." Notice, how definitely the Lord tells them what to do; they were to look at the serpent, they were not to look at themselves. They were not even to look if the swelling was going down in those highly inflamed parts, but were simply to continue to look at the serpent and now we are enjoined to look unto Jesus the Anti-type continually or stead-fastly.

Then we go on to that great atonement chapter Isaiah 53. He begins the 4th verse by saying "surely," the only verse beginning that way in this entire chapter. "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Now Jesus Himself translates this in Matt. 8:17 "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." The penalty of death came through the fall and sickness which is a forerunner of death came in the same way. Sickness is a penalty of the fall. But Jesus Himself declares that He took our infirmities and bare our sickness." So if He did what He said He did then it is no need for us to bare our sickness since He has borne that part of the penalty for us.

Then in the next verse He says "But He

was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed." He took our place. He suffered that we need not suffer. "He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." So if Jesus paid the debt I need not pay it again. If He paid it then I am free. Jesus said "He that believeth hath everlasting life." He wants us to believe just this. He says these signs shall follow them that believe. Believe what? Believe just this that He has borne our sins and sickness. O how the faith of any one will begin to rise as they dwell on these Bible Truths rather than upon the insinuations of many so-called Christians. And yet whose mistake is it, if their faith does not grow? Certainly it is the one in whom the faith of God does not spring up. O let us dwell on the Word of God and not on the words or even threats of man.

A dear man of God who had been very sick for a long time finally decided to turn his entire case over to the Lord. After he had done this in the most solemn way he knew how, he arose from his knees and began to move out by faith. Immediately there was a suggestion from the enemy, this is fine but on an important matter like this you had better consult your Christian physician first since you may not last long in this condition which you are in. This seemed very reasonable, but as he turned to go he received a stunning blow. And the Lord spoke very definitely to him in the following manner; "Have you and I not agreed to put this into My hands?" And immediately he saw his mistake and asked the Lord to forgive him. And the man was perfectly healed.

"He that believeth shall not be confounded." How simple, just to believe. O how the doubts will vanish as you read and believe the Word of the Lord. There is no wonder that the Lord told Joshua as he was about to cross over the Jordan and into the land of the giants: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success. He was to do all of his thinking according to the Word of God on the high level of faith. O let us decide to take the Word of God for what it says. Let us treat it as the Word of the True and Living God. Let us regard it as the Living Word for our day and not only for

the generations that are past and gone. And we will find something arising in our own being that will make it easy to believe the Word of God in all things and in all times and under all circumstances.

The best way to have a corn crop is to plant the corn in the right time and then trust the Lord to bring it through the ground a tiny spear that does not look like a crop of corn, but in due time it will be not what you planted but a million times more. And so if we follow the law of the Lord and simply read, meditate and abide by the Word regardless of how hard it may seem to us, we will find not a puny faith springing up ready to give up in every little time of opposition, but a faith which has been given by God. A faith with the heavenly push in it that will dare to believe God no matter how dark the way. A faith that will quietly trust Him and not worry and fret and pine, but that will find time even in the most trying circumstances to praise the Lord.

The best thermometer for faith, or the best way for you to know if you have faith or for you to know if faith is coming, is if there is a spirit of praise coming into your hearts. So do not refuse to praise Him. When the spear

of corn comes through the ground you do not see the crop in all its fullness, but you see the spear. And so you may not see your answer in all the fullness, like you hope to see it, yet within your heart there is a praise which Jesus gave you and you must be careful not to stifle that praise. For that is the life of your faith. The faith that thus comes from God may not come like a flash. It may not come on you like a tornado. But the one thing about it is that it is sure. It cannot fail. It may not be satisfying to some but the one thing about it is this; "It is scriptural" and any thing that is scriptural is worth following. It is worth waiting for. It is worth paying a price for. It is worth standing alone for. In fact it is worth more than any person has to go through to get it.

This is the faith that Jesus spoke about. This is the faith that will remove mountains. This is the faith that knows no fear. Because more solid than the earth itself is the Word of God in Whom your entire hope is built.

O when will men cease to try and operate God's program in their own way? When will we stop and take the way that He has so definitely laid out for us? What a peace comes to

the one who will thus come in the God-appointed way.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Amen.

## CHAPTER IV

#### THE VENTURE OF FAITH

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Heb. 11:7.

In this verse we see a man of God venturing out to do something that no man had ever done. This warning itself came by faith. I do not know in what way the Lord told him. But He had the faith in God that whatever He said would come true. He had this faith. And then he ventured out. The reason folks do not venture out on the promises of God is because they do not have the faith of God. But after you have assimilated the Word of God, after it has become a part of you, that faith itself will move you out. The faith that has come from God will always produce works. It did in Noah's case, and it will in yours.

"Being warned of God of things not seen as yet." God told him of something that he

did not see, as yet. God told him something that was not likely to happen in the ordinary run of things. It had never rained before that we have any record of, and if Noah had never seen it rain, it surely was not an easy thing to believe that it was going to rain to such an extent as to cover every high hill. And so God promises to do things for you that are not likely to happen in the ordinary run of things. They may be utterly impossible for man to do. It may be said from a natural standpoint that it never would be done. This certainly was Noah's case.

"Moved with fear." This goes to show that there was a fear in his heart of disobeying God. While we read, "God is love," yet we also read that "Our God is a consuming fire." Disobeying has its awful penalties. There is a certain fear back of all things which we do that make for the best. The farmer plants his seed in the spring of the year for fear he will not have a crop. The electrician wears his rubber gloves for fear of receiving a shock. So while there is that happy outlook if we obey the Lord, there is also that fear if we should neglect or disobey. Whenever this fear of the Lord takes hold of us in such a way that we would rather

displease man than displease the Lord, then it is when faith will begin to venture out.

In Luther's translation we have the clause, "Noah honored God," and he honored Him by building that ark. He did not simply say he believes what the Lord had told him. But by the building of that ark he honored God. Many people will ask the question, "But must we not do our part?" This is brought out very strikingly in this case with Noah. Noah built the ark. He did not try to make it rain. Not even in those last seven days when his faith may have been tried. But he did exactly what the Lord told him to do. No more no less. By his works he proved that he really believed what the Lord had told him. He did not wait to prepare the ark until it began to rain. He did not tell the Lord, "If you let it rain a little first it will strengthen my faith a bit and then I will go ahead and build the ark." But before he had any signs of rain he took his saw and hammer and began the work. No matter what the other fellow thought about it, Noah was decided what he was going to do. His mind was made up as soon as he had heard the Word of God. He did not figure out if the water would run away faster than it could rain but his work was

to build the ark and he did what the Lord had told him to do. If he never did another thing in all his life he was bound to do what the Lord had told him to do. If he lost the respect of all his friends he was determined to do what he knew was the will of the Lord. He was willing to obey the Lord at the expense of losing his standing in the community, society or church. All the compromise of his friends meant nothing to him. Did he not know the will of the Lord? What then was left for him but to simply obey? And so after you have read the will of the Lord there is nothing left for you but to do as Noah did. Move out and leave all the possible chance of failure with Him. All suggestions that it might not rain were left in the hands of the Lord. The Lord would make His Word good. In thus venturing upon the Lord there is a peace of mind to the one that ventures out, which passeth all understanding. While on the surface there may be a human fear, but deep down in the heart there is that peace, that voice of God reassuring your heart that God is with you. There is that light that brings a rest that the one does not have who has followed the advice of man rather than the teachings of our Lord.

One time while engaged in a revival meeting in the very first part of my ministry I was giving the "Messages" as the Lord laid them upon my heart. There was a certain hobby that the ministers of that community were united on. So while I was not riding the same hobby horse which they were, they very naturally did not care for the "Messages" which the Lord had laid upon my heart. They, all being united on their one particular theme, made it as hard for me as they dared to. Being young in the ministry and not understanding just what was back of their peculiar way of doing things I felt very much burdened. I wanted to do the thing which the Lord wanted me to do and yet these men who were older than I surely ought to know better than I. So one afternoon I walked to the outskirts of the city and into a field and there all by myself I poured out my heart to the Lord. I was strongly impressed to open my Bible and there in Jer. 1:17 I read these words: "Be not dismayed at their faces lest I confound you before them." O how my heart was lifted up in praise to the dear Lord who had warned me just in time. I was already feeling the fog of confusion into which I was drifting. But quickly I emerged from that condition and brought the "Messages" to the people with a conviction in my heart that I was doing the will of God. It is needless to say that with the "Messages" of God going forth with no uncertain sound it was not long until we were in the midst of a glorious revival. And some of the hobby horses were thrown out of the back door. If the fear of God in my heart is so strong that I fear nothing more than to displease the Lord, I am sure of my ground and there is a peace in the midst of all the storm.

Then it was by the building of the ark that he condemned the world. It was not his testimony. It was not when he went to the neighbor and told him that it was going to rain that the neighbor felt the arrow of conviction. But it was when Noah with ax in hand walked down the lane to the timber to cut down the trees which he was going to use in the ark that the neighbor at least was convinced that Noah believed what he was talking about. And so today it is when the people of this world see that a man really is shaping the trend of his life according to what he says be believes that they at least are convinced that we are sincere in what we believe no matter if they believe it or not.

But more than that, when it began to rain

how that ark must have stood out as a monument of the faithfulness of God. O how His faithfulness must have haunted them as the flood began to rise. So the life that has ventured out on the promises of the Lord will never die. And even when the tongue is hushed as the voice of Noah was silent in the ark, there will be that monument of a holy life of faith and every act and venture of faith will stand out of all the waters of sin and unbelief and condemn the world.

Then it was through this act of faith in building that Noah was led to the righteousness which is of God by faith. And so many a person who has ventured out on the promise of the Lord has been led into the light of full salvation and on into a continual walk of faith with the Lord.

All who have ever dared to venture on the promises of God have had a sure foothold in the time of storm. Daniel dared to venture on God, when he dared the prince of the eunuchs to feed him pulse instead of the King's meat, and water instead of the King's wine. Praise His name! The faith that has been received by the Word of God will always produce the venture. So read, hear and meditate on the Word of God

until you find yourself thrust out to risk all on that promise.

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word,
Just in simple faith to plunge Him,
Just to know thus saith the Lord."

## CHAPTER V

#### THE TEST OF FAITH

"That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:7.

It is perfectly reasonable that the Lord should try our faith. The machine is tried and tested before it is taken out on the road. The boiler is tested in the shop before it is put on wheels and run on the railroad. So the Lord will test the faith that has just recently come into our lives.

The first statement of this verse is very encouraging: "That the trial of your faith," in this statement the Lord admits that you have faith. Some people are tempted to throw away all confidence when the Lord is thus leading them through the test of faith. But if you had no faith the Lord could not test it. Another thing is true about this trial of your faith and that is; "The trial of your faith is much more precious than gold that perisheth." O this which

is so unpleasant to most of us is "more precious." Yes this trial is more precious to you, that is it is of more real value to you, than the answer which you so much long for and which you stand so much in need of.

In this great trial of affliction the Lord is bringing something out of your faith that will stand you in good stead as the days go by. It would almost be a tragedy for you to come to the Lord and receive the thing which you so much desire if you were not led into that life of complete faith in Him for all things.

Many will say they have so much faith. And O how sure they are of everything. It reminds me of the time when my father would tap the maple trees for syrup. One bucket would fill up after another one. What a disappointment it was to me when they boiled it all down until it seemed to me there was hardly any thing left. And thus it is that the Lord often deals with us. We may have a great deal of faith. But part of that faith may be in self. It may be in some one else besides Himself. And the Lord knows that all of that is not only excess baggage for us to carry through life but will be a real hindrance to us as we go on with Him. O how sweet it is to finally get down to

where we can rest entirely on His promises alone. During this time of trial which is usually the time which elapses between the time you have put your case entirely into His hands and the complete fulfillment of the answer, it is not at all unlike the enemy to suggest to you that you are different than other people, or that your case is entirely too hard, or that you have no faith at all. In fact there is nothing too mean for the Devil to suggest to you. But through it all it is well for you to remember that the Lord has said: "God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which you are able."

O how we prize the answer which has cost us a great deal. How we rejoice when we see how faithful the Lord has been to us through it all. There are many different blessings wrapped up in this answer which has been delayed. You may send some thing and receive quick delivery by air mail. But if you have time to wait you can send a larger package by express. But if you will have still more patience with the Lord you can send off and get a freight train load strung out car after car.

Then He goes on to say the real reason of all this trial. It does not end in this life. That

life which will not be worn off by the years that come and go but will be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. The very test and trial that you are going through as you may be reading this book is putting something into your heart that will stand out as a monument of glory to the Saviour as we meet Him there in the air and receive our reward with all the saints that have gone before.

O do not throw away your confidence which has great recompense of reward. Satan would improve the opportunity as He did when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Remember it was after the greatest experience of His life, humanly speaking. It was immediately after the Holy Spirit came upon Him after His baptism in the river. There as He came up out of the water He saw the heavens open and the Spirit descending upon Him in the form of a dove, and a voice from heaven saying: "This is my beloved Son." The Devil took advantage of the situation at a time when Jesus was at His weakest. There after His lone fast without food for forty days and forty nights He came to Jesus and said: "If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread." Notice He did

not say that now since he was the Son of God He could do this to appease His appetite, but He put Him in such a doubtful deceitful way, "If thou be." Just after all of His glorious experience at the river at the time when His body was the weakest. But praise God the Lord Jesus stood the test, and now knows how to succor those who are tempted.

Joseph had his dream. He could not help that. Joseph may have been proud, but one thing is sure, he could not help that he had that dream. He saw himself a ruler. But there were those thirteen years of apparent failure. Yet all that time the Lord was only bringing out of his life, those things that were of hindrance to him and cast them away while the true remained and in just the right time, he became ruler. In all that time including his prison life he did not cast away his confidence but still kept his trust in the Lord. Yet all of this time he did not know just why the Lord was permitting all this to come to pass. Something that none of his brothers were called to pass through. And then on that memorable day when he stands a ruler and his brothers bow down before him he explains it all to them in just a few words: "God sent me before you to preserve a posterity." And so the test or trial which He allows to come over you is working for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. O how many trials came because of that purpose. And yet Daniel would not stand out today as the man whom God protected in the lions' den, had he not purposed as he did that day.

If Job had not been a man of God he would never have had to go through the trial which he did. But how strange our Bible would seem today without the book of Job in it.

And so if you and I were drones and simply living in this world because we can not get out of it, we too might escape some of these trials. But O the Day of the Lord will surely come, when the trials of our faith which is more precious than gold that perisheth, will be found unto praise and honor and glory.

#### **CHAPTER VI**

#### THE GROWTH OF FAITH

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . . nothing shall be impossible to you." Mt. 17:20.

"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed . . . which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Mt. 13:31-32.

All through the Word of God we see of the growth of that which has come from God. It is the lack of recognizing this truth that has led to fanaticism. Many people have been discouraged when they saw the faith of some; they immediately jump to the conclusion that since they do not have the same amount of faith, they are not in it at all.

Jesus compared our faith to a grain of mustard seed. He said that if we had faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing would be impossible to us. Some, then, either come to the conclusion that the Word of God is not exactly true or that their faith is not as large as a speck

or a mustard seed as Jesus said it is the least of all seeds. But in the next verse of our text He brings out the real secret, when He brings in the growth of that little seed.

Faith, like anything else, will grow under the right conditions. You cannot pull at it to make it grow. You cannot make it grow by some physical effort of your own. But under the right conditions it will grow.

You would never plant corn in the month of September in the corn belt states. It might germinate alright. Yes it might grow a foot tall. But it would never grow to be of any real benefit to the world. It is not because the seed is no good, the soil was not at fault, but the conditions were not right. The chilly nights are on. The frost comes and finally that nice green plant which looked so promising and which would bring a crop of corn without fail under the right conditions, is now wilted and dead. You would never think of taking a newly hatched chick out of the incubator and putting it into an ice box.

The Lord is very careful to tell us just how the atmosphere ought to be. He even goes so far as to tell us what kind of company we ought to keep. In Psalm I the Lord tells us, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." He first tells us what we ought not do or He says blessed is the man that doesn't walk according to the advice of one that does not counsel you to walk according to the Word of God. So if your faith has not yet come to full maturity it is best for you not to argue with the one that would insinuate against the simple way of faith. For after you have come farther along you will not want to. You will leave them in their low haunts of doubt since you cannot move them.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he does all his thinking. Now the faith that has been generated by the Word of God will thrive on the Word of God. The corn which has been germinated by the warm soil and rain will now grow the fastest in the warm soil and rain.

Do not worry about your faith. Do not fret because it is so small. Just give it the right kind of food. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Many times the Word of God is entirely

neglected. How often when visiting in homes have I been reminded of the time when I was a boy. The farmers sometimes had small farms and were trying hard to make ends meet. So sometimes several farmers would go together and buy a harvester and use it alternately.

If your neighbor has become so interested in a Bible that he has borrowed yours, by all means let him have it, but buy yourself one. Today you can get a Bible for fifty cents and there is no reason why every one should not have one. If you have no Bible and are not able to buy one, it would be the best thing that you have ever done, if you would fast for a whole day so that you might buy that which will lead you and your family out of the dark. For He says: "The entrance of thy Words giveth light."

Then faith grows by exercise. Why is the arm of the blacksmith so strong? Why can that bookkeeper write so well? Why is it that this person plays the piano so sweetly? You could sum it all up in this one word: "practice." Continual usage makes perfection. The child that will never get up and walk surely will never run. The one that is not willing to drive a machine at the rate of ten miles an hour will never drive it forty miles an hour. So do

not be afraid to step out and put your faith to work.

Several years ago the Lord led us out to start Sunday Schools in neglected districts, then to hold revivals in these places. The expenses were small but they had to be met. The souls were few but they had to be brought to the Lord on the arms of faith. At that time it took all the faith which I had to keep on top. Today the expenses have increased and there are more people that must be saved. It takes all the faith that I have now. My faith has kept pace with the work and the need. Had I waited to begin the work of the Lord until I would have had the faith which the Lord has given me now I should never have moved out of my tracks.

So do not be afraid to stand on the Word of God and trust Him for whatever your need may be. If you have only a half of a loaf of bread in your house, step out and say, "God shall supply all your need," just as loudly as if you had a dozen loaves. If there are doubts that come to you that the Lord will not receive you, just repeat: "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." The Lord says, "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you." Resist him then

and he will go fast, he will not go slow.

You are not glorying in your accomplishment. You are not rejoicing simply because you believe that He is going to deliver you or yours. But you are rejoicing in Him. Thus as you come to the Word of God it becomes a part of you. Then as the days go by you will be pleasantly surprised to find how calm you may be in the greatest test. John Wesley went to sleep in the attic while his would-be murderers were searching on the floor below. heavenly Father knoweth." O how sweet to know that He knows all about it. You cannot tell Him anything about yourself that He does not know. "Yea," He tells Jeremiah, "before I formed thee I knew thee and ordained thee." How sweet to thus go to sleep in the arms of the One we can trust so well.

Thus your faith will grow until the people will come and lodge under your branches as the birds came and lodged under the branches of that mustard tree. Every one else will be benefitted by your continual walk of faith. Your own faith will continue to grow until that day when faith will change to sight where we shall know as we are known.

# PART TWO Faith to Be Born Again

#### CHAPTER I

# FAITH IN THE LORD OUR SAVIOUR FROM ALL SIN

It is a sweet time, for any one that is lost, when they find the Saviour. The man lost in the woods rejoices when he sees the one who will guide him out of the dense forest. can never thank the drowning man enough, who has plunged into the angry waves and pulled him safely to land. I well remember one dark night, when I was a boy of about ten years, the clouds were hanging low. One could not see your hand in front of your face. I was going home from a little country church. Father had been too busy on that week day evening to take the family, so that dark night I ventured to take mother, a visiting lady and my sister and two brothers home from the evening services.

I can almost feel the chills go up my back now as they did while I was trying to guide that team of horses between two ditches with the family in the buggy with me. O I never can forget the horrible thoughts that ran through my mind. I was just waiting every moment to be plunged into the ditch, and the team I fancied they were already running down the road. There, with this awful feeling of not knowing where I was, imagine my joy when out of that stillness, out from the darkness somewhere there came the sound of father's voice. O how my heart fairly leaped for joy. How glad I was when I could hand the lines over to him and have no responsibility. How wonderful it was to have a saviour that dark night.

No one that has ever been lost will ever entirely forget the horrors of that awful time. It may have only been for a short duration but just a few moments with the consciousness going through you from head to foot that you are lost, is a distressing experience indeed.

Any one that has ever felt that they were lost in a spiritual sense will never forget the horrors of those awful moments. A sense of being guilty, not before men, but before the Lord. O what days of anguish to the soul that really is

conscious of its awful standing before the Lord of all the earth. How burdened the soul that has tried to run away from conscience to find the impossibilities of such a thing. How disappointed must be the one, who has tried to gain the true joy of life in the vanishing things of this earth, only to find the hollow echo mocking their poor soul in the aftermath of what seemed so tempting. How sad must be the heart of the man or woman who has toiled all of his or her life to gain favor with the Lord, to find favor was lost sight of and was never seen again since the day when they started on their self-righteous career.

It is in just such a time as this that you need faith in Jesus as your Saviour. Have you felt there is no hope for you? If so you have had a companion when I was just thirteen. How vividly do I remember when those awful thoughts would almost set me frantic. Others have been saved, but you cannot. The burden seemed to be too great for prayer. After a long life of indifference there comes the thought to you, "I have wasted all my best years in idle wandering about, surely the Saviour does not care for me now." The thoughts run wild. Religion is fine but it is only for the good people.

If you had come when you were young there might have been hope for you, but now you are too old, or now it is too late. Satan can and will bring millions of thoughts to you trying all the time to push you still deeper into the mire of fog and gloom. You try to lay off all evil habits and yet there is that sense of being lost. There is that wistful longing of the heart, what else could I do to inherit eternal life?

There may be a church that will admit you. But O that burden is still there. And so from one thing to another and all the time like a snowball rolling down the mountain side on a warm winter day, becomes bigger as it goes on and on. Just so the burden seems to be growing larger instead of smaller. Good resolutions are being strictly adhered to but all of this still seems so empty.

Finally we turn to the dear old Book and read, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with His stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions and as a cloud thy sins, return unto Me for I have redeemed thee." Isa. 44:22. O how much different this all sounds. He was wounded in my

stead. He bore my guilt. He was bruised for my iniquities. He was made sin for me that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Through His death He has blotted out my guilt. O He took my place. Yes, He took the place of every guilty son and daughter of Adam's race. What news this is. He died in my stead. He paid the full requirements of the law.

Now listen to these gracious words. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6: 23. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin, I John 1:7. He that believeth on the Son hath overlasting life, he that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36. O what hope there comes into the soul that thus sees for the first time, perhaps, that Jesus Christ has paid the full penalty for sin.

Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow.

O He cries out to you today, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. "And the

Spirit and the bride say come and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. O how sweet of Jesus to invite me now after I have treated Him so ill. How comforting to know that after all He is not my enemy. What a difference between a judge exacting more than the guilty one can pay, and a Saviour who says, I paid your fine. There He stands, my doubting brother, nail prints in hands and feet. The wounded side, all these will ever be a living receipt that all our sins have been forever paid. Without shedding of blood there is no remission. Thank God, "There flowed out blood and water."

O my dear unsaved brother or sister, believe the report that God gave of His Son. He died for you. He set you free. O sit no longer there in that death cell. Stand up, believe His Word today and you too like Peter will find the great iron gates open of their own accord. Stand up, the stone has been rolled away.

By grace are ye saved, through faith and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Unmerited favor is ours today. It was not what we deserv-

ed. It was not what we earned. O dare to throw away your robes of self-righteousness today. Completely trust Him to be your Saviour from all sin right now. After years of wandering with heart now torn, bleeding and broken, O come, O COME TODAY. He does not blame you for all your sin. He does not point His finger of scorn at your neglect. But there with His heart still bleeding, too, He waits to bless. He waits to brush the tears away. He will bind up the broken-hearted, and set the guilty captive free. Do not fear to let Him see your all. With garments white He'll come in today. Nor will He make you feel afraid. But there on His gentle breast He bids thee rest thy weary head. That throbbing brow He'll soothe just now. The bleeding beating heart He'll comfort, cheer, and kiss the tears away.

Long, long years you've wandered, but coming home at last. How sweetly He bids thee welcome. There God looks at you complete in Him. He died condemned, misunderstood for Me, for you.

O wondrous grace, He took my place, upon the cruel tree, He bore my guilt, His blood He spilt, To set my guilty soul at liberty.

#### CHAPTER II

#### FAITH IN THE FATHER TO RECEIVE YOU

"I will arise and go." Luke 15:18.

There at home with plenty, no need, no want, but everything supplied. How can this prodigal leave home with all its comforts. How can he turn his back upon a broken hearted father and then go merrily down the road to face the devil all alone. But all of this because he does not understand. He thinks he enjoys. But after all it does not last. There is the glitter and glow of wealth. There pours the wine. The dancing feet and all. O how much better than the slow life at home with father. No thought of home. No love for poor father dear.

But there at home the father still remembers. He knows the way his son has gone. He knows the pits, the dangers and the Devil. His son at the mercy of them all. His heart still bleeds. He longs, He looks, but all in vain. His son did not come home today. O brother, did you ever think as the sun went down and the day had worn away, Father was

compelled to say, "My son did not come home today."

Still going on and on. Still deeper, deeper, deeper. O why go in so far. But on and on he goes. Not tonight has been the key to thousands of sad and broken hearts. From sea to sea and over hill and dale there comes the cry: "It is because I said, Not tonight." But on and on he goes. Thoughts of home must come crowding into his mind. But O he must be a man. He can not be so sissy now. Weak men are easily moved and so he wipes the tears away. And on and on he goes.

But finally the money gone, the friends have turned away to seek some other one upon whom to pounce and feed their thirsty, fiendish, greedy passion. Bleeding, ragged, thirsty, hungry, he comes to himself at last. The husks of this earth don't satisfy the soul that longs for God. He looks up to the skies and wonders if the same stars are seen at home tonight. Even the moon seems nearer home than he.

He remembers now the parting at the gate. He sees his father still as he winds around the hill. How cutting were those words I spoke! O could I just recall them now. But no, they're gone. They really left my lips. They landed

on his ears. Where is he now, what attitude does Father take? He waits and wanders. O had I only been more kind, perhaps he then would take me in, he cries with accents wild. O could I but recall that day, I never would have strayed away. But it is real. The cold facts cannot now be changed. But what shall I do? I'm dying here. I cannot stay, but where, O where will I go? The days are long, the nights seem ne'er to pass away.

At last I think I hear him say: I remember the words: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." Ps. 50:15. O I'm in trouble, but that cannot mean me. Again he waits and waits. His clothes are thin. He feels so weak. O how cruel the Devil treats his subjects. He promised gold, he promised fame, but all have vanished as the dew and left an empty void.

If I should now go home, would father really take me? He could never, never own me. But could I a servant be, I sure would go. I'd rather be a servant than die out here. There with the marks of the devil all over him; there with the lines of famine written deeply in his face, with clothes all torn and heavy with filth, he comes to himself and says:

#### "I WILL ARISE AND GO."

There back along the road he came long years ago. The winding road seems to be spelling out his crooked life. Even the birds seem to drop their eyes and fold their wings as one so pitiful goes by. But on and on he goes. "I must go home today" he cries. "I will not ask him to take me as his son. He can never take me back that way," he says. "I'll be his servant if only he takes me in." On, on, he goes faster and faster on his way. There at last upon that distant hill a quaint old form he sees. It is coming nearer, nearer. It is his father. He hardly dares to move, what will the verdict be? "Will he drive me back or take me in." He cries aloud: "Father, I have sinned in heaven and before thee." By then his father reaches him. He throws his arms about his neck, and cries: "Is this what is left of my dear boy?" as there around his neck he weeps. The kiss of peace he gives his boy, and calls, "Bring the best robe, and shoes. That ring put on his hand. Kill the fatted calf. O let us eat and merry be. My boy was lost but now is home at last." And there around that table can you not see them now? "Thank God, my boy is home at last."

Have you left the father's home, my broth-

now in vain? See the Father stands today. He heart yet heaving, belching? Does it all seem er? Are the things of earth all gone? Is your wants to bless your soul just now. Will He really take me in? has been the cry of every weary soul. His heart is bleeding worse than yours. O trust Him then today. Why will you longer wander? O come home while you may. And there around that table He will gather those for whom once you little cared. How sweet then will seem their conversation, as of Him they freely speak. All your sins He'll freely forgive you. Your bleeding heart He waits to comfort. Come Jesus, come into my heart today.

I do not care for all earth's glitter. In vain they now are calling me. I loved them once. But O how bitter they are at last. No sweet assurance in the soul. No rest at the close of day. Go on, gay world with all your charms. You fade and only mock the cry of that poor soul that followed your winding trail. Then in the Father's arms you rest. This is the life of Faith. This is the life most real. O stormtossed soul, don't delay. Your Father knows it all. In that great bosom of the Father is a place reserved for you. Will you take it today?

#### CHAPTER III

#### FAITH TO BECOME A SON OF GOD

"But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name." John 1:12.

To some people the only thing or the uppermost thing, at least, in their minds, is to have a certain sin forgiven. There may be one or there may be a few things in their lives that to them are outstanding. So many simply come to the Lord to be forgiven. Now the Lord wants to do that. He is anxious to do that. But there is something of far greater importance than that. He wants to make us His children.

The Lord does not expect a sinner to live a holy life. That is, the Lord knows what we are by nature. He knows that in us, that is, in our "flesh," there dwelleth no good thing. He knows that the "heart is deceitful and desperately wicked." He did not condemn the adulterous woman. He did not blame the publicans and sinners. But the great trend in the Life of the Saviour was to create in them a new heart.

The publican realized this when he prayed, Luke 18:13, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." He did not pray the Lord to forgive him his sins, but to be merciful to him a sinner. A sinner naturally sins. An apple tree bears apples, a plum tree bears plums. And so to be simply asking the Lord to forgive us our sins would be like trying to change the nature of an apple tree by pulling all the apples off, and trying to stick plums on it.

Some people will ask the Lord to forgive them and they go on trying to live right as best as they can in their own strength. But the Lord says in our text above, that he gave a certain class of people power to become not better people, not a little less profane, not a little more moral, but He gave them power to become the sons of God. To try to live right in our own strength may be accomplished to a certain extent in the sight of man. But the thing that the Lord says must take place before we can see the kingdom of God has not been wrought.

Jesus told Nicodemus, the night that ruler of the Jews came to Him. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. O the great secret of this salvation is that Jesus wills to make us children of God. We have

been born with a heart that has been estranged from God. Our natures will differ. Some of us may be very congenial. Naturally we may be lovable. But Jesus plainly tells us that the heart is deceitful. Many cannot detect the sin in the heart. That is why the Lord said that the heart was deceitful. That is, the sin naturally will disguise itself and the heart may not appear to be so bad from a human standpoint. But lying deep down in the human heart there "the eyes that try the children of men" see the sin, the corruption that no man can see. The Lord says, "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8. So the great object of the Saviour is not only to forgive us out past sins, but to give us a new heart, or to make us His children or as He told Nicodemus, to beget in us an entire new being. This is what is meant by the new birth. This is what entitles the child of God to all the blessed privileges which are promised again and again in His Word. For He says in Romans 8:16, 17, R. V., "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ." This goes to show that you not only become a child

of God but an heir of God. You ask why does some millionaire's son receive so much more than you. The answer is simple: he is a son and you are not. And so the one great Truth connected with the new birth is that we do not only receive forgiveness, but that we actually become His own, yes His very own children.

In verse 11 of this wonderful chapter of John, we read "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." That is, He came as their Saviour, but they had no confidence in Him as such. They knew Him as the son of Mary, but they did not accept it that He was the Son of God who came to bear away the sins of the world. He came to His own. To His own family, to His own class, to the Jews. He came to those whom God had chosen to be His people but they could not make themselves believe that they had need of any one to take their sins away since they were so extremely religious, as it was. But then the Lord goes on to say, "But as many as received Him to them He gave power to become the sons of God." That is, He put it up to every one who would receive Him as their Saviour. To receive Him as your Saviour you admit that you are a sinner. Because if you are no sinner you need no Saviour and

so He puts it that way that any one may become a child of God. May become an heir of all things by admitting that they are a sinner and believing that He is the Christ, the Saviour of the world. Then to make it more clear that any one may understand it He says, "Even to them that believe on His Name." That, "believe on His Name" means that He is the only begotten of the Father, the One who has come to suffer for our sins. O it surely does take us down very low. To admit that we could not save ourselves and that the Lord Jesus had to come down from heaven to suffer for us. Yes, that takes away all the dignity any of us ever did have.

There, helpless, burdened with sin, going farther down every day, we finally come to Him. We finally are willing to come down off our perch of selfrighteousness and accept this free gift. O how sweet it is to come to the end of ourselves and just give up to His way. What a calm after a storm when a soul finally rests on this Rock.

Some folks are constantly disputing, why need I be born again? Or what lack I yet? Jesus said in John 10:7, "I am the door of the sheep." Then in the first verse He says, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold,

but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Jesus has laid down the only possible way of getting to God. And then for any one to try to climb up some other way would be the same as a robber not trying to come into the door of a business place, but trying to climb into some window after night.

Some folks are constantly disputing, while some are willing to take the Lord at His Word. One time two men started to find their way to a place where they had been invited out to dinner. They, both being somewhat strange in that city, were just a bit doubtful as to the way to get there. The old gentleman said, "I believe it is down east," while the younger one said, "No, I believe it is west from here."

They stood and argued for some time. Finally a man of that town came by and the older man asked him which way to go to get to these people. The man of that town told him to go west, but the old man immediately remonstrated by saying, "Is it not down east?" To which the man of that city replied, "Why did you ask me?" And so the great secret in dealing with the Lord is to remember that Jesus Christ has been the great Architect and He knows exactly how

it all belongs. It is safe to follow Him. It is dangerous to follow our own way.

The great secret is that this salvation of ours is a finished work. The Lord has seen the need of every one long years before any of us were born. This plan of salvation has not been an after-thought. But in Isa. 44:22 we read, "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions and as a cloud thy sins, return unto Me, for I have redeemed thee." Here He so very definitely says that He has regarded us all as sinners and included us all in that price which He paid when He died for our sins. He says as a thick cloud He has blotted them out. That is, they must have been so many that they looked to Him like a thick cloud. God could see all of our sins even before we were born. And then He does not even wait to see if we are willing to become His children but goes right ahead by faith and redeems all of us with the privilege of accepting this work on the cross or rejecting it.

So every one has already been redeemed. And if they don't accept it, just that much of this great salvation has been in vain. O brother and sister, the Lord has regarded us all as sinners, and has gone out into the midnight black-

ness of hell and has paid the price of death and has given us a receipt in full stating that now "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, for it is written: Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

Thus we lose our own righteousness, but we gain His. We, like a bride, lose our name, but we gain His. We lose all we have had, but we gain all that He had. We lose our own selfrighteousness but we gain His righteousness which is of God by faith. We lose our wants and receive His abundance. We lose our nature, but we gain His. We lose our wills, but we gain His will. We lose our sickness, but we gain His health. What a privilege to be His altogether.

All this transforming power is the work of the Holy Ghost. This belongs to God and not to man. Many have tried to convert sinners, but they have utterly failed. O this is the work of the Lord and the only way that the Lord can do this is by faith. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; he that believeth not on the son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him." O trust Him today to change your heart. Trust Him just now to come into your innermost being and live there. He sees your condition just now and is eager to make

you His own. He knows how you have stumbled. He does not blame you at all. He saw the moments of heart anguish. He saw those hot tears roll down and fall on the ground. "He is come that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly." He has bruised the head of the serpent. All is finished. He kept the law for you. He fulfilled the law for you. He is your sacrifice today.

This is not a make-believe. But it does not take effect in you until you believe. O what a privilege to be a son of God. What a privilege to come right into His presence as a child would come into the presence of its parent. All this is yours. It is more than a blessing. It is becoming a child of God. You say you cannot become good enough to be a child of God. No you cannot be good enough. But you can trust Him to make you His child. It grieves His loving heart to thus doubt Him. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need." Heb. 4:16.

### PART THREE

# Faith in the Lord thy Physician

#### CHAPTER I

## FAITH IN THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR BODIES

There is only one way to find out what is in a will and that is to read the will. So the only way to find out what the will of the Lord is concerning our bodies is to read the will, which is the Word of God.

It is encouraging to notice the original condition of the bodies of our first parents. We read the opinion of the Lord Himself in the last verse of the first chapter of Genesis, "And God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good." This was not the opinion of one inexperienced, but of God Himself. The God who was continually seeing things beautiful and everything in harmony, said that man in every

way: spiritually, mentally and physically, was "very good." This was the way the Lord made us and this was the way that the Lord intended for us to be. And then over in the New Testament, in 3 John 2, we read, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest—be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Nowhere in all the Word of God do we find that Jesus ever refused to heal any one that came to Him by faith. But He invites us all to come and says, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

Now, our first parents were just in that condition until the serpent came and beguiled them. Sin and sickness can all be traced back to that awful day when the devil, God's enemy, came into the garden. But immediately God told them while they were still in the garden that "the Seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head." In this the Lord referred to Jesus Christ who was to be born of a virgin. It was not the will of God even then for Adam and Eve to go on in sin and sickness. But that through faith in this promise of God they too would be delivered from the awful enemy. Then came the law in all its types, foreshadowing the suffering Saviour for soul and body.

Man has a two-fold nature. Soul and body were included in the fall, but thank the Lord they also were included in the great plan of redemption. Even in the departing of the children of Israel we find that they were not only to sprinkle the blood on the door posts but were also to eat the meat for physical strength. Then in the wilderness as they were journeying along, we read that "the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way." Num. 21:4. O it is a bad day when discouragement overtakes you. There is sure destruction in its wake. Do not linger around it. Because of this the people spake against God and against Moses, which resulted in the fiery serpents coming upon them, "and much people died." ally the people took just the right course. same course will still bring results today. They just spoke three words that carried the weight, "We have sinned." These words spoken from a truly contrite heart will surely bring results. And then they made a fuller confession, and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses as He will always hear just such a prayer as that and told Moses just what to do. "And the Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass

that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it shall live." Now the Lord could heal them without the serpent. But in that serpent was visualized the death of Christ. For Jesus Himself said, "for as Moses lifted up a serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have eternal life." God never does anything in vain, but it was a shadow of Christ on the Cross. Then too they had to exercise faith in the healing for God did not come and pick them up, but they had to look at the serpent which was a type of Christ on the cross, and we read, "When he beheld the serpent he lived." There was spiritual and physical life. The Lord provided the serpent for the people through Moses, but they had to look at the serpent. Notice, they were not to look at their swollen parts to see if they were now going down, but they were told if they looked upon the serpent they would live. How simple was the command. Believe it, look and live.

Then in Psalm 103:3 we again have this two-fold work for soul and body: "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases." He is interested in soul and body. In body as well as soul. This idea that the Lord

is not concerned about our bodies is certainly not the teaching of the Scriptures. Even in the resurrection we see the concern of the Lord about our bodies. Then in that great atonement chapter, the 53rd of Isaiah, we again have the redemption of soul and body running parallel. I will just quote two verses in this great chapter. "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." "But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed." Now that first verse is just a bit obscure in this rendering, but if we turn over to Matt. 8:17 we find the way Jesus read this verse: "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses." Just why the Lord should put this verse ahead of the one where He deals with the atonement for our sins I do not know. Then too this is the only verse that begins with the word "sure." Whatever weight this may carry, it surely should forever silence the man-made or rather devil-invented saying that the Lord is not interested in our bodies. Luther's translation is very clear, "Surely he hath borne our sickness and loaded upon Himself our pain." Then in the next verse He puts the two together again telling us plainly that the Lord suffered for our sins and for our sicknesses as well. To make light of the atonement of healing is to make light of the suffering of the Saviour. Yes, the great agony that our dear Saviour went through was the price of our redemption for soul and body. He paid all the debt that was incurred by the fall. Hallelujah! we are free.

Then as soon as our Saviour took up His earthly ministry, we read in Matt. 4:23, "And Jesus went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people," then in Matt. 9:35 we read practically the same thing. Jesus realized the purpose of His ministry and undertook to heal as well as save. He never cast any away but healed all that they brought to Him. Read Matt. 8 and 9 and you find very little else but healing. He came to make atenement for our bodies as well as for our souls.

Then before He went away, while still ministering to the people, we read in Matt. 9:36, "But when He saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd." This shows the yearning heart

of Jesus for the needs of the people both for the soul and body. Compassion is a very tame word as it is rendered in the English. It really means that within Jesus there was a passion, a painful longing, to help the poor helpless people. And then He goes on to say in the next verse, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." He wanted men that would go out and do just what He Himself had done: teaching, preaching and healing in His Name. For at the close of His ministry He told them just before He went away, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." He wanted the Gospel to be preached to every creature. Now what is this Gospel? The Gospel is the Good News. The "Good News" was that Jesus had come, died and rose again to pay our penalty. It was while Paul was preaching this Gospel that he saw a man in his congregation that had faith to be healed. Now how could that man have had faith to be healed had not Paul been preaching something of this wonderful truth. He certainly did not insinuate against it as so many dead preachers feel it their calling to do today. Then he called to that man, "Stand upright on thy feet and walk." And immediately the man was healed. Then He continues, "These signs shall follow them that believe." Two of these signs were, "In my Name they cast out devils, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." The Lord intended that wherever they go that this blessed privilege should be appropriated for every need. But some will say if you take one of these signs you must take them all. We accept this challenge that in every case of need this is just what the Lord meant.

Then to show that the Lord wanted this to be appreciated by the people even after the apostles, we read at the close of the apostolic age in James 5:13-15. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up and if he have committed sins thy shall be forgiven him." O what provision the Lord has made!

He included it in the atonement and then gave us such a plain and easy way to prove our faith in him. What love, what compassion!

P

#### CHAPTER II

#### FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISES

Now since we have seen that the Lord really included the healing and health for the body, we want to look over a few of the definite promises of the Lord to heal the body and to give us health.

It is encouraging to know that the Lord has even accounted for our skeptical minds. That is, He knew a long time ago that we were going to be a little doubtful as to His promises and so He enters right into our way of doing things. "For when God In Hebrews 6:13 we read: made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He sware by Himself." The Lord knew that the custom among the people was to be a little doubtful with things very important, especially when it came to promises, and that in important matters they usually used an oath, and so God adapts Himself to the level of man in doing this, as He goes on in the 16th "For men verily swear by the greater verse:

and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise (which means whosoever will) the immutability of His counsel confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" Here we see that God was willing more abundantly to show to those who really cared to know, that His plan and His counsel for us does not change, that is, it is immutable or unchangeable. So that we might have a strong consolation, so that we might not be worried continually fearing that He might not make His Word good. He did not have to swear so as to make it more impressive so that He would not break His Word, but He ventures right out into this simply to show us poor unbelieving creatures that He really means business. then every one of the promises of God is doubly First, they are His Words which will never pass away. Then secondly, they are oathbound words. O how wonderful it is of our

dear Lord to thus remove all doubt from our earth-dimmed minds.

In Exodus 15:15, 26 we have a definite promise that if we follow Him that He will not put any of the diseases upon us which He has brought upon the people that do not know Him. Or rather that He will not permit any of those diseases to be brought upon us which He has permitted to be brought upon the Egyptians. But then He goes so far as to say "I am the Lord that healeth thee," He makes provision for us if we do become sick.

Exodus 23:25, 26 "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread and thy water:" and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Notice, He begins by saying "Ye shall serve the Lord your God." Now this naturally means after you have entirely given yourself over to Him. This means that you have come to Him for the forgiveness of your sins and that you have now become His child. Then in the ordinary run of things He says that in the line of your duty He will bless your bread and your water and will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Notice, He says very definitely what He will bless. He does not say that He will bless your

drugs or your medicine. But He does say that He will bless your bread and water. Some one will say "Does He not also say that He will bless the medicine?" No he does not promise to bless medicine. No where do you have a scriptural promise where God says He will bless the medicine. But one will say "Does He not sometimes do it?" God does many things for His children as a second best. But the plan of God is to heal without the use of drugs. Then, too, drugs in the Greek has been translated "Sorcery" and this shows us how the Lord really classifies drugs. But it is a wonderful privilege for anyone to claim this wonderful promise as he or she partakes of food. "Lord thou hast promised to bless my bread and my water and I am just taking this upon that promise." Many have been completely healed in just this way.

Then He goes on to say "I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Notice, He does not say that you have to massage it off, or in any other way get rid of it but says "I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." The Lord needs no one to help Him. He simply wants us to do what He has already told us to do. Jesus plainly told the Pharisees that their work was to believe. And it is upon this same

condition that He has promised to heal.

Then in the 26th verse of this 23rd chapter of Ex. He says-"And the number of thy days I will fulfill." Then over in Ps. 90:10 we read "The days of our years are threescore years and ten and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years." So then by putting these two promises together, we come to this conclusion that until any have attained the age of 70 or 80 years they have a scriptural right to pray for life. At any age in life the Lord has promised to heal us. But up to this age we have a scriptural right to pray for life. But some will say if you take this scripture as it says there would be no more deaths. Why not? The Lord says in Heb. 9:27 "It is appointed unto man once to die" so that plainly tells us that the Lord expects all to die with the exception of those who will be alive at His return. It is not the highest will of God that some terrible disease drag us down to our graves. Would it not be scriptural to say as the apostle says about David in Acts 13:36 "For David after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, and was laid unto his fathers and saw corruption." The devil knows that this is the only life in which he can make the true child-of-God suffer and he will

improve his opportunity in doing anything to make God's handiwork miserable.

Then over in the New Testament we do not read of one single case where Jesus first sent them to do all that they could by way of medicine, but He healed them every one. I am not fighting medicine. There are some Christians that will never trust the Lord for their healing, and for those it is a help, sometimes? Then, too, there are many still, that do not know a thing about our Jesus. But God has so plainly written in His Word what He will do provided we trust Him fully that it would be a crime not to spread this "Gospel" which Jesus so forcefully told us to do. O how many have gone down to a premature grave simply because they did not know about this great Truth.

God has always wanted to be the Healer of His people. This is true of all dispensations. The very trend of the Bible is that way. Secular history here and there reveals this great Truth.

Asa, the king of Israel, was a good king and for some time he fully trusted the Lord. God gave him great victories. But by and by his heart was lifted up and when the enemy invaded his country he did not go to the Lord for help as he did before, but called upon his neigh-

boring king to come and help him out. The Lord was much displeased with this. God told him how He had helped him in his trouble before. The Lord very definitely told him that herein he had done foolishly. But we do not read that Asa repented and turned back to the Lord but went on in his own strength. But we read in 2 Chronicles 16:12, "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord but to the physicians, and Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign."

This very definitely holds out that the Lord expected Asa to come to him instead of going to the physicians for help. In fact it gives this as being the cause or the reason that he did not get well. The Lord has always expected to be the Healer of His people. It has grieved His loving heart that we have not taken His counsel and that we did not come to Him as He told us in James 5:14.

The epitaph then for Asa's tomb stone would be very suitably written, "Here lies Asa the king who died because he sought not to the Lord but to the physicians." O how many Christians die in the same manner.

Thousands of tomb stones could be rightly marked in just this way. But "they that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion which cannot be moved but liveth and abideth forever."

Wesley said that the early Christians had no other means of physical help. Luther refused medicine on his dying bed. To the extent that the spiritual life has flourished, to that extent the Lord has been the Healer of His people. O it is precious to know that this is no new Truth. But that the very Bible that tells you about heaven and about the Saviour of our souls tells us about the healing of our bodies. And while so many have made ship-wreck of their faith by indulging in something that was questionable or into some ism, largely because the ministers of the Gospel have failed to do their duty in holding out to the dear sheep of the Lord their privilege, it is sweet to know that this is the plan of our blessed Bible, your very own Bible. The Bible that your parents used and died by. Praise His Name! Yes we can truly say that this is the faith of our fathers. Even though some of them never saw this Truth as the Word of God plainly teaches, yet that same Bible has it in it. And every promise is for the heirs of promise, for every son of Adam's race.

In the Old Testament the promises were largely for the Jewish people. But thank God all of His promises are for the whosoever will. "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." O how precious that the Lord even healed the daughter of that Gentile woman that came to Him. God is no respecter of persons but any one coming to Him will receive the same hearing. So come today. Dare to venture out up-on His promises. How wonderful to feel yourself moving out after many years of doubt and suffering. Many have been healed while listening to the instructions in my meetings. Some have been healed while reading the literature. Remember He is right there now and will undertake your case as you pause for a moment and put it entirely into His hands. There is no limit to time or place. Then trust Him right now. In Jesus Name.

#### CHAPTER III

#### FAITH IN GOD'S PRESCRIPTION

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed." James 5:13-16.

Nothing could be more plain than the instructions to those who have physical need. O how simple after all is the Word of God. How easy it is to understand the Lord if we will just come with an open, humble mind.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray." This does not necessarily mean that if the sickness is not severe we dare not be anointed, neither does it mean that you should not pray for yourself when you are sick. However, it does want to impress upon our minds the importance of prayer. That is to bring everything to God in prayer.

"O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear; All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer."

Sometimes people simply get into the habit to have other people to do all of their praying. When something goes wrong the first thought is to call up some one whom they know to be a real man or woman of prayer and have them to pray for them. They remind one of the heathen who use a wheel to pray, that is, they turn the wheel while they are praying. Some of them have found out how to make a windmill and now they are able to hook the wheel on the wind-mill and thus they make the wind do their praying. I do not wish to discourage any one to ask for prayer if they feel that way. In fact we are enjoined to pray one for another, but we are also told to pray for ourselves. Thus in praying for ourselves we draw near to the Lord in a way which we do not when some one else prays for us. Just talk to Him like you would talk to your mother were you a child again. The Lord says "Except ye become...as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." And if there is anywhere that the Lord expects us to be like children it is in our prayer life with him. Our communion with Him will be sweet if it is child-like. Then He says "Is any merry? let him sing psalms." Not the popular jazz of the day, but let him sing Psalms. The Psalms are the Word of God. So many of our songs today have little more in them than the spirit of a march or something else to work up the emotions of the body. But in singing the Word of God one is brought into closer fellowship with the Lord. And if there is anything that we need more of, it is more and deeper fellowship with the Lord. A song or Psalm of praise will always draw us nearer to the Lord in spirit, soul and body.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." Here the Lord tells us just what to do when we are sick. Then He tells us whom to call. He does not tell us to call for one that is skilled in science or in the medical profession, but for the elders of the church. All that can be said of the qualifications of an elder is that he is to be a man of God. That is, to know God. So far as he having any power to heal in himself is concerned, he has none. But he is to know the Lord. If you were on your bed near death's door you would not want to have an elder to be called from the pool hall to come and anoint. I would not want to have him to breathe a tobacco breath into my dying body. No, I would not want to call any one from the gay pleasures of this world to minister to my poor, sick and pain racked body. I would like to have one whom I know is living the life of faith and communion with the Lord. I am aware of the fact that the Lord has given to some the gift of healing as also some of the other great gifts. But in this passage he is not even referring to this. But simply an elder, a man of God, chosen of God for that position.

"And let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord." To pray over him means to talk to the Lord in regard to this sickness. We read in the 4th chapter of Luke when the folks in Peter's house besought him for Peter's wife's mother, that He stood over her and rebuked the fever, that is, He spoke to the fever. Now a bench or a chair could not understand, but this fever understood and immediately obeyed the voice of the Saviour. This goes to show that back of the fever there was an individuality, a demon that had brought this on. Some folks have been led to reject this

truth about sickness, since they know the sick person to be a Christian. But in Luke 13:16 Jesus made it very clear how this is possible. After Jesus had healed the woman that had been bowed together for eighteen years, and the ruler of the synagogue found fault with Jesus for doing so, Jesus answered him: "Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day." There are two things that Jesus indirectly makes very clear in this passage. First, that she was a daughter of Abraham or that she was a child of God. Second, that she had been bound in body by the devil. So while the soul is saved the body may be bound by the devil. That is, the Lord made it clear that a sick person is not necessarily a sick sinner. To know this that the Devil has bound the body and that it is really the will of the Lord that the body be free, is already half the recovery. So many feel that the Lord wants them to be sick but still they are doing all in their power to get rid of the sickness, in that case they feel as though they were really doing something that the Lord did not want them to do. For if the Lord wants us to be sick it surely would be

wrong to do anything to become well.

"Anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord." The anointing with oil is not using medicine. There is no spell that is thrown over the sick one as is the case some times with drugs. There is no power in the oil, but it stands for the Holy Spirit. That is, oil in the Word of God stands for the Holy Spirit. He tells us in Eph. 4:30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." This shows us that the Holy Spirit seals. And oil which is used as a type of the Holy Spirit seals the believer's body unto God, for complete healing. Some folks say; "I will be anointed and prayed for, if it does not help me it won't hurt me, it does not cost anything so I will not be out anything." In this way they need not be surprised if they do not get anything from the Lord. For He says "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily unto the Lord and not unto man." So whatever is not done with the whole heart is not done at all with the Lord. If you were to hire a contractor to build your house, you would not hire the first stranger that you would happen to see. But you would want a man whom you know is reliable. And so many who would like to run in and get

their healing in a paper sack and then run away only prove that they do not have the faith that comes from the Lord. For that is not the way that you would do business with men of this world, so why try to do business with a righteous God on such an unreasonable basis. After you would have carefully considered the matter you would give the contract to the man whom you are convinced is the right man for your job. And so the thing to do is not to be anointed until you are convinced in your own heart that the Lord is your Physician in deed and in Truth. Then you can go forward in faith knowing that He will do as He has promised to do. When you put your body into the hands of a surgeon for the operation, you submit before he ever draws his knife. After you have given him the word he goes ahead regardless if you see through it or if it pains you. You have committed your case to him and now are in his hands. So it is exactly when you put your case into the hands of the Lord. O this is important. When you mail a letter you are not satisfied until you have dropped it into the mail box. After that you are perfectly easy. So you too can rest easy after you have really put your case entirely into His tender

hands. Right here is where so many people fall down in their healing. They think they are putting their bodies entirely into His hands and vet if the Lord does not heal them exactly as they thought, they become discouraged and throw it all away and say that there is nothing to it. One time a lady, whose case the surgeon had diagnosed as "Gall Stones," came to me to be anointed. It happened that I had no instruction meetings at that time. I told her all possible in a short time and then anointed her. drove back to her home. The next day she did not feel any better and made up her mind it was about as she had expected. So she kept her engagement with the surgeon at the hospital and had her operation, but the surgeon found that the Lord had already dissolved all the "Gall Stones." But her sore did not heal up readily and she became very sick with it. Another man whom I anointed for goiter did not get well as fast as they thought he ought to. So they too went to have it cut out. But the surgeon found that he had had two goiters and that one was completely dissolved and the other almost. But this man too, did not get along well at all. Is it any wonder after they have treated the dear Lord so ill. It is nothing short of mockery to be

anointed and prayed for and then take the case out of the hands of the Lord and try and have it removed some other way.

Then the Devil too can lie in your body as well as he lies to you in your mind or in your thoughts. After you have entirely put your case into His hands it all belongs to Him and you can praise the Lord for the complete healing as though you were seeing it in plain view. Satan is able to bring the pain back to you so real that you are tempted to think it is the original pain and sickness. The Lord says "Resist the devil and he will flee from you, draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you" James 4:7, 8. Resist him. Do not think about what he suggests to you. If you will thus resist stedfastly in the faith, he will flee from you. Resist him like Jesus did. Stand on the promise of the Lord for whatever need that you may have, and the devil will leave you, he will flee from you, he will go fast, he will not go slow. Again the Lord says in 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, whom resist stedfast in the faith." O we must be sober. We must arm ourselves with the Word of God so we can quote it as Jesus

did in Matt. 4. Jesus always said "It is written." Or as the Luther's translation puts it "It stands written." Or it stands the way it is written, there will be no change. And thus as you are able to take your stand on the unerring Word of the Living God the devil will have to leave you. One time a man was anointed for the healing of a cancer. He was made perfectly whole. About a year after, the pain returned in practically the same way. He went to his surgeon who said that the cancer would now have to be taken out. But as they opened him they found the scar where the cancer had been a year ago, but there was no cancer. So the devil has power to put a pain into your body even after you are healed and the Lord tells us that we should resist him stedfast in the faith. 1 Peter 5:10 "After that ye have suffered a

1 Peter 5:10 "After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish strength, settle you." So after you have been tested a while you will be the stronger for the test. For the trying of your faith is much more precious than the answer itself. O how sweet are the answers that have cost us a bit of perseverance.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick," or as Luther's translation puts it "The prayer of faith shall help the sick." The prayer of

faith means that the one that is praying is convinced in his own heart that it is the Lord's will for the person to be healed. Many ministers will pray and then insert the following clause in their prayer: "If it is Thy will." This only exposes their ignorance that they do not know the will of God which He has so plainly laid down in His Word. If you were to pray with a sinner in the way that most people pray for the sick they surely would never be saved. If you were to pray for an unsaved person: "Lord save this man, forgive his sins if that is Thy will, if not he will have to remain unsaved and finally be lost forever." I'll venture no sinner would be saved by such a prayer. And yet that is just what so many are doing in regards to the prayer for the sick. Thank God, we know from His Word that it is the will of the Lord above all things that you should be in health even as your soul prospereth. III. John 2. O how sweet that the Lord is interested in our bodies, and it is through a well body and not a sick one that we glorify Him.

"And the Lord shall raise him up." Thank God, it is not the work of man to raise the sick one up. But there with all that sickness and disease we can depend on the Lord to raise the sick person up. Is there anything too hard for the Lord? There hath not failed one word of all His good promises. Hallelujah to Jesus!

"And if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him." O how sweet is the spiritual uplift to the soul that has been healed directly by the Lord. Many times have people spoken to me after they have been healed from some awful disease from which they had suffered intensely: "O it is wonderful to be healed." Some have said "I have touched my body to make sure that it is myself and I cannot thank the dear Lord enough for healing me and I cannot thank you enough for showing me the way and praying for me, but the spiritual help which I have received from the Lord is so much more and means so much more to me than all this wonderful healing." Then too sometimes we have sinned against our bodies. Some times we have over-worked, over-eaten, or have not properly cared for our temple of the Holy Ghost, in such cases we can claim this promise. In any case of sickness whether it has been brought upon us through ignorance or through sin we do not need to settle down in despair and say it is my fault and so I have to bear up under it. No, thank God, "as far as the east is from the

west so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Ps. 103:12.

Then in the next verse He gives us a very helpful suggestion: "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed." So often Christians or professing Christians would rather and think it easier to confess some one else's faults than their own. Of course this does not carry any blessing with it. It must be our own fault which we confess and not our neighbor's. Then too he says pray one for another. Some will say "How can I pray for any one since I am so weak myself?" But it was when Job prayed for his friends or for those miserable comforters that the Lord turned again the captivity of Job. And so it is as you step right out and do the will of God from the heart that the Lord will heal you for He says; "Ye shall serve the Lord your God and He shall bless thy bread and thy water." Again, the ten lepers were cleansed as they went to be examined if they were healed or not. At the time when they started to go to be examined they were still leprous but "as they went they were healed." O the man or the woman, the boy or the girl that dares to believe the Lord will find Him true in every hour of need.

"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know thus saith the Lord."

### CHAPTER IV

## FAITH IN THE SIMPLE ACT OF OBEDI-ENCE

"They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Mark. 16:18.

There is a great blessing in the simple act of obedience. Kingdoms have risen simply by obedience to the Word of the Lord. The blessing in such a case does not lie in the means used, but in the act of obedience in using them. In most cases of mighty deliverance in the Bible the Lord wrought it by way of some very unusual method. This the Lord does so as to make sure that those concerned and even the world that stands by and looks on will be convinced that it was the Lord and not the hand or wisdom of man that has wrought the deliverance.

This is true in the case of Gideon. He was threshing grain by the wine press and hiding the grain in an unlikely place so that the Midianites who were then invading the country would

107

not suspect it and rob him of his crop. While thus engaged, no doubt thinking of how this surely was not the Lord's wish for His people to be run over in this way; the angel of the Lord appeared to him, and saluted him in a very dignified way "Hail thou mighty man of valor." The Lord then told him that he was to head the earthly forces under God for the great deliverance. Gideon immediately thought of his inferiority and began to make excuses, but before the Lord got through with him I think Gideon was convinced why the Lord should choose a man of so little importance. Gideon gathered thirty two thousand men together to go out against the Midianites, but the Lord very definitely told him that there were too many of them. After the weak and fainthearted went home, there were still ten thousand remaining. But the Lord told him again that there were too many, and also told him the reason why. "Lest Israel vaunt themselves, saying: mine own hand hath saved me." Thus the Lord had to go through the ranks twice to get rid of some of the people simply to get the people's eyes on the Lord and not onto the strength of the army. The Lord has always had some difficulty to keep the eyes of the people on Himself. Then there with those weapons which had never had their equal (a torch a pitcher, and a trumpet) they marched out against the thousands of Midianites. Think of what short work that they could have made of the Israelites. But the Lord had promised deliverance and it was none of Gideon's business just how the Lord would bring it about. So after the Midianites had been completely routed there could never be a doubt in the hearts of an honest man but that it was the Lord and not man that had done it. So in the case of laying on of hands: it is not human skill or accomplishments, but wholly of the Lord, and so long as people and minister really give all the glory for all the healing that is being done to the Lord, so long the Lord can continue to heal the people. O the great thing that I want every one to do is to give God all the glory for the healing. I have never healed any one. The people that are to keep their healing and those that will go on with God must depend on the Lord and not in man to keep them under the shadow of His wings.

When the Syrian general came to Elisha for healing, Elisha simply told him: "Go wash in the Jordan seven times and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean." This very naturally enraged the general for such as he should receive special attention. But it was not until he was willing to get down off from his chariot and do as the man of God had said that he was perfectly healed.

The same thing might be said of the blind man whom Jesus healed. Jesus spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay, and said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam . . he went his way therefore and washed and came seeing." Some have said that here Jesus justifies the use of something to sooth. But if one's eyes are sore and you put clay on them it naturally would not sooth them. No, Jesus used the very opposite from that which man would use to prove that it was not in that which was used, but entirely in the Lord, making His Word good. To go to a pool and wash with the expectation of coming with the blinded eyes open, surely was nothing but a simple venture on the Words of Jesus. Praise the Lord he was not disappointed. I am glad that he was healed and so will every one be who will simply believe the Word of the Lord, enough to venture right out without asking any questions.

## PART FOUR

## Faith in God for all Things

#### CHAPTER I

## FAITH "IN THE LIVING GOD WHO GIVETH US RICHLY ALL THINGS TO ENJOY."

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

1 Tim. 6:17.

The very last word of this great text is one that grips my mind as I sit at my typewriter. How few people who are rich really enjoy their wealth. Most of these people who have wealth, honor and position are not truly happy.

It is a happy day for any one to see that he does not need to own the world to enjoy it. When the truth dawns upon any one that he can enjoy the flowers and catch their wonderful perfume that they send out into the morn-

ing air, as he walks or rides along, without owning them, surely is a great accomplishment. Just to get out and enjoy the stars on a warm summer evening seems to be next to paradise itself. The beautiful sunset with all of its charming colors is so wonderful that the one who really loves God can sit up and say "my Father made it all." Some people think if they were the president of a railroad company, they could enjoy life. Then they could call for a special train and go wherever they wanted to go. But listen brother, when the Lord really wants me to go to a certain place (and it is not safe to go when He does not want me to go) then He will have the train there at the right time. Then as I ride along I can enjoy the scenery better than any railroad president ever would have time to do. For I always have time to look at my Father's handiwork. Notice, the text does not say He gives richly all things to monopolize, but all things richly to enjoy. What a happy world this would be if all people would enjoy things. Yes enjoy just things. The things that the Lord meant for our enjoyment.

Then He goes so far as to say He giveth us richly all things to enjoy. That is, He does not give it scantily. So many things that He

will give us to enjoy. And then, too, in such an abundant manner that we will really be enjoying them to such an extent, that we would not have to enjoy them as much and still we would be happy. Some people are living on such meager fare. That is, they are constantly seeing things that they cannot have and therefore they cannot enjoy them. O let us get on the other side of this fence and enjoy the things which a loving Father has given us so richly to enjoy. The man that thus is enjoying all these things in this manner is not only delighting himself. But praise the Lord he is building up his mind. He is not building some air castles in this way but he is really feeding his body which will drive away many demons who would unload some filthy trash, the stench of which would make any body sick.

The text really reads in the following positive manner; "Trust in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." That is, He tells us how we can come to enjoy all these things so richly. It all comes about by trusting this living God. This wonderful, loving Creator. The Redeemer who has planned all of our life. O trust Him today and He will make you happy. He can turn an old look or grudge and

envy into a winning smile and praise that will drive the gloom away from any one. Trust in the Living God. Trust in that God who did not do as some parents: give their children all that they had and then they and the children all became beggars. No, thank God; He is too wise to do that. He is living. He does not give us everything in one day for fear He might die soon. He is living. He is a person and understands your daily need. He knows all about the day before we enter it. Trust in this living God who is daily interested in all of the needs of His dear children. Thank God, for He told John; "I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive for ever more." He is not the dead Saviour which so many people would like to make out of Him to cover up their own inconsistencies. But He is alive and will manifest Himself to those who really love Him.

There are many who think of the Lord as some business man, too busy to attend to the trifling things. They feel like the Lord is so busy looking after the affairs of nations that He has little time to spend on its individual subjects. Nothing is farther from the truth than that. For He says Himself in Matt. 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all num-

bered." Jesus was trying to show the people that really had a desire to trust Him for the all things, that the Lord could not become overworked. All that the Lord does is with the greatest ease. He does not work on a strain as so many of us do. He has surplus. An extra one to care for does not at all hinder Him from still caring for the one that has been putting his trust entirely in Him. Some people will say they are willing to trust Jesus with the salvation of their souls but they cannot trust Him with the healing of their bodies. But if we can trust Him with the greatest then surely it ought not be hard to trust Him for that which is least. Again some cannot think that it is possible to admit the Lord into our living. That is, they do not feel that it would be right to trust the Lord with the little everyday occurrences. They feel that these things they must shoulder alone. But He is your Father and wants to enter right into your daily living.

Many with enough money to buy a suit of clothes in their pockets will not think to ask the Lord about so small a matter as that. They feel like such trifling things as that, one should not take to the Lord. Did you ever stop to think that life is made up of trifling things, but

life is no trifle. And so should not these smaller things, these things which we call trifles, if these really make up so much of our lives, after all take an important place in our lives? If any thing is really a trifle, or if any thing is no good, why then have anything to do with it at all. But the Lord knows that we have need of the things of this life. He knows that we need food and shelter. He knows the things of life that will go to make us truly happy. He knows the things which we will really enjoy. Many people think if they become a Christian then they will have to give up all the enjoyments. But the facts of the case are that the Lord will give us all these things richly to enjoy. How perverse the world often times looks at the things of this life. The enemy would have us to believe that the Lord is not interested in the temporal affairs of this life and so we must come to him to enjoy ourselves. All the enjoyment in the world which can really be called that, no one can or ever will enjoy until they completely give themselves to the Lord.

The privilege of letting the Saviour enter right into our everyday life, is enjoyed by so few today. And yet this is exactly what the Saviour wants us to do. The one that will per-

mit the Lord to thus enter into their everyday life will enjoy the things that he thus receives more than others who do not thus confer with and listen to the suggestions of the Lord along these lines. Some people will speak about these things in such a careless manner that any one holding the truth of the Lord as very sacred, will be offended and if they do not have the ability to discriminate they will throw it all away and put it all down as fanaticism or some old wives' fables. The very fact that the Lord blesses us in this way ought to make it very sacred to every one. And no one really living so near to the Lord will speak about this in a light-hearted tone or manner. The Lord says "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him and He will show them His covenant." Ps. 25:14. The Lord does not want us to keep this to ourselves. He wants us to make known His acts. But He also says we should not cast our pearls before the swine. I could add experience after experience where the Lord has worked miracles in my life and about my duties, but I do not know into whose hands that this book might fall and so rather than to have the Truth evil spoken of I will only say: Let the reader fully give himself into the hands of this One whose name shall be called Wonderful and he will be made to realize that "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or even think."

The Lord knew just how much strength Elijah would need on the long journey upon which He was about to send him. So he sent an angel to bake a cake on the coals and also brought him a cruse of water. This the angel repeated twice. But the first time the Lord had a similar experience for him He had the ravens to bring him the eats and the brook to supply the water. Again Jesus said "Take no thought saying what shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." And then Jesus goes on to say how to have all these things when He says "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." That is, the regular course of our life which has been planned of God, our needs will be supplied. And as our text states "Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." Again He says "Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou

dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed." It is always in the God-appointed way that the true child of God has the joy and liberty in the Holy Ghost. It is not in idleness or in the path of least resistance that the blessings flow to us. But the Lord loves us more truly than any earthly parent could ever love his child and like the parent the Lord feels that nothing is too good for His own.

Our Father is rich. And He longs to lavish His wealth upon those who will really go all the way with Him and trust Him in the "all things." It is a lack of this clear Bible Truth that has caused many people to resort to tricks and schemes to make a living. It is the lack of this Truth that has put the supper room into the churches and taken out that upper room where men could have their needs supplied in more ways than one. It is recognizing the love of God to us in all of its fullness that brings true joy and lasting happiness to the wholly yielded heart. After all the true joy comes from Him. The real source of happiness is in the Lord. "For every good gift and very perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of Light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

God will take care of you,
Through every day o'er all the way.
He will take care of you
God will take care of you.

## PART FIVE

# Faith in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

## CHAPTER I

#### FAITH IN JESUS THE MIGHTY BAPTIZER

"But there standeth One among you whom ye know not." John 1:26. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." Matt. 3:11.

The crying need of the church today is to take one long move forward to Pentecost. The one great need of those who once were saved is to get into such close communion with the Lord that material things will be considered a side issue compared with the salvation of never-dying souls.

With a gloomy outlook Jesus would have left the disciples standing on the hill in Galilee had it not been that He had the assurance that those who had followed Him in His earthly ministry were soon to be endued with power from on high.

They had lost their testimony. Peter had denied His Lord. All had forsaken Him and fled. Surely they had proved themselves cowards. How could they go out and tell others after they had so miserably failed in witnessing for their Lord. Certainly now the testimony of Peter would not go very far with that maid in whose presence he had denied his Lord just a few days previous. But the Lord had a Message for them, before He went away. It was the same Message which John the Baptist gave them three years before. "But there standeth One among you whom ye know not." "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." What courage it must have given these fearful disciples as they looked into the future that they would not have to go out and talk this salvation just yet. They were now going to wait upon the One who was to come and testify of their Lord.

Today with all the skepticism in the world, the schools, and the churches. With the spirit of indifference so tightly gripping the Laodicean church, surely the true church needs to be told the same Message which John gave the dis-

ciples and which Jesus gave His followers just before He went away. O the only hope for you and me, who see the condition of things today, is back to Pentecost. Back to another day like the disciples experienced. Back to God, or on and up to God, I think is a better way of expressing it. God has moved on. It is we who have been lost in materialism. We have been lost in the fogs of doubt and uncertainty. O we need to go on with the Lord until He renews us and our testimony for Him, that the world will really see that we have been with Him.

In the midst of the materialistic world today, in the midst of all the formality, one is sometimes almost about to ask the question: "Will the church after all be triumphant? Or must we go down and down? Must we become weaker and weaker? Must we, like the disciples, tell the man that comes to our door with his lunatic son: "we cannot help you." Must we bow to the often repeated statement "the days of miracles are past?" Must the church grow weaker and weaker while the devil and his forces grow stronger and stronger. NO, NO, NO, ten thousand times NO. Even Daniel, that Old Testament prophet, wrote of our day

and said "But they that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."

The great secret then is agreed upon in these two texts: "They that do know their God" and "There standeth One among you whom ye know not." O the great trouble is that the church has had the wool pulled down over their eyes so that they do not know the Lord. To know God means to understand His language. To know God means to know His Book. To know God is to live with Him. You do not know a man in the real sense of the term if you only see him once in four weeks. really know a man you must live with him. You must be with him in joy and in sorrow. You must be with him when the pull of life is on. You must be there when reverses come. In order to know one perfectly you must live in the same soom. You must eat from the same table. The joys and the sorrows must be mutual. Then you may say, "I know him."

Jesus said He is with you and shall be in you. What a sad picture of Jesus standing on the outside of the door of that Laodicean church and knocking, knocking for admittance. What a pity that He has been ruled out of so many churches. Jesus overthrew the tables of

the money changers and turned the animals out. Either Jesus will go or the tables where men and women eat and play, will have to go. Jesus said "My house shall be called of all nations a house of prayer." A place where people of all nations can come and pray. A place where men go to pray and not to play. A place of fasting and not of feasting. So the church has gone on until when folk are sick they call for the doctor. And when they are weary they call for the undertaker. The poor world looks at the steeples of these great million dollar edifices and wonders "where the God is to Whom they were supposed to be dedicated." O they tell me of what God used to do. But tell me, O tell me, where is He now? Tell me, is He no longer interested in the needs of His people? You tell me that He is a God of Love. But tell me, how can He be a God of love and live on a distant planet with no desire to see His people and with His people in no special concern to see Him. Souls are dying and crying out daily, "Where is thy God?" O it is time for the church to accept the challenge and be able to bring them to the God who loves them and is yearning to help them. Elisha heard of the king who had rent his clothes when Naaman was sent to him to recover him of his leprosy. The ministry is standing largely with torn clothes today. It is time for the church to open her eyes to see the awful blasphemy that her Lord is carrying "with the cry of a social gospel being brought to a lost, undone, sin and bodily sick world."

What is the answer? O thank God that "There standeth One there is an answer. among you whom ye know not." The first thing then is to become acquainted with Him. Because he says He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. In order to become acquainted with any one we must take the time to do so. We cannot rush by in the whirl of life at the rate that the world is traveling today. Come and get acquainted with His book, and you will fall in love with the Author, as a girl did with an author of a book. It so happened that after a young man had been visiting with his bride-to-be and was getting ready to leave, that he noticed one of his books lying on a shelf. He turned and said; "I see you have one of those books too, how do you like it?" To which she replied: "Not very well, it is so dry and not at all interesting." She noticed him turning and becoming somewhat embarrassed,

and said, "What is the trouble?" Then in a low tone he replied: "I wrote that book." Imagine the chagrin of that young bride. But after he was gone, she picked up that book and never stopped until she had read it from cover to cover. What a picture of the Bride of Christ today. No time, little love for the Love Letter, the Bible. O it is possible to receive a love for His Word that nothing in all the world could separate us from reading, meditating and obeying its teachings. While Mrs. Rediger and myself were holding meetings in an eastern city, we met a lady who told us of a time that she was losing her eyesight. She did not know that the Lord had made atonement for our sicknesses and that she was an heir to perfect health. And so in the best way she knew how she told the Lord: "If you will heal my eyes and not permit me to go blind, I will never read anything but the Word of God." Now I want to make it clear that this lady did not need to make such promises to obtain her healing. But I am trying to show the results of one who would confine his or her reading to the Word of God alone. She held her Bible in her arms as she was telling us her story and then she pressed it very tightly to her bosom as she said: "O

I sweep, I take it with me. I catch a word when I can and then when I have more time I just go all alone and have a good time with my Bible." This was not a task for her, but a delight. In the very first psalm we read of the man that meditates in the Bible day and night: "And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Wouldn't this be fine to be able to say this of every church today? Of every one that names the name of Christ?

The Lord does not want His people to go When Martin Luther was discouraged one day his wife dressed up in mourning. He thought it was so strange and asked her who had died; to which she replied: "Did you not hear about it? I thought from the way that you were acting that you knew that God had died." Luther saw his wife's position and immediately got on the other side of the fence. Thus when we have become acquainted with Him and His Word, we will come into that relationship where He can baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire as He has said. Some people have an idea that the Holy Spirit is a very hard thing to get hold of and then a very hard thing to hold on to. They make it seem such

a terrible experience that very few honest people ever venture close enough to God or the Bible to find out for themselves. But thank God the Holy Spirit is a Person. An intelligent Person. One who will talk and walk with you. He is here in this world at the present time. The disciples had to wait for ten days but He finally came and thank God, He is here today. There standeth One among you. Praise His Name, He is among us today. Here on this earth is the office of this blessed Person. Right there in the room as you are reading this book. There He is. Longing to so fill you with Himself that your life will be a constant miracle to yourself, and that others will see that you really have been in touch with the world above.

It never has been the plan of God that the church should be defeated. The Lord has never intended that He should be ruled out of His rightful place. He has always intended that His people "go from strength to strength." O what bounties the Lord has for those that only will dare to go all the way with Him and trust His blessed Word. He says, "The joy of the Lord shall be your strength;" and again, "These things write we unto you that your joy might

be full." He first says that the joy of the Lord is our strength and then goes on to say that He wants that joy to be full and then, of necessity, the strength would be complete. O what joy there will come to the one that has fully given up to the Lord. The peace which passeth all understanding will so keep and fill and over-flow that he will exclaim with Paul: "For our conversation is in heaven from whence also we look for the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is for every one who will. O the unction of God makes this life a joy. The Spirit of the Lord will give us that double portion which we must have if we are to keep on top for Jesus. It is for you. Thank God! "For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts. 2:39.

In the next chapter I will make it clear to you just how that you can let this Wonderful Comforter come into your life.

#### CHAPTER II

### ONE GLIMPSE OF JESUS BY FAITH

"I saw also the Lord." Isaiah 6:1.

An entire life was changed and a nation received the "Message of God" as a result of Isaiah seeing the Lord. Isaiah was no doubt one of Israel's best. But when he had a glimpse of Jesus, he also saw himself in the true light of eternity. Then, too, he saw the need of the world and answered the call of God for service.

It is possible for us to become so engrossed with the activities of the work of the Lord that we lose sight of Jesus, and the tender Spirit of Christ will vanish out of our lives, that we become dry and formal in this great work. I was much impressed with a Sunday School Superintendent who was out with some of his workers to begin a Sunday School in a neglected community; thinking that after the Sunday School was started they could hold a revival and many would be saved. He said they remodeled an old barn in the neighborhood for the purpose on Saturday afternoon because they

were all so busy during the other part of the week. While they were busily engaged in the work a man of the vicinity came in. He inquired about the new work, and seemed eager to hear about the Lord. But they were so busy that they had no time to tell him about Jesus then. He left the ground, but the revival never developed and the man never found his Saviour. When we have lost our keen edge we become nothing more than another complicated machine which is uninviting to the one who is away from the Lord and needs the love of God in the hearts. O one glimpse of Jesus brought Isaiah to see that while he was trying to serve the Lord he was doing it with lips which were defiled with things that were unholy and that he could never serve the Lord that way.

We cannot all be great in the sight of the world. It would be foolish for any of us to strive to be that way. The crowd will cheer you and laud you and almost carry you around on their hands for a few days, and then they may turn and be your most bitter assailants. The people of Lystra saw the miracle which the Lord had done at the hands of Paul and wanted to worship them, and then in just a few hours they stoned him and threw him out of the

city. We cannot and will not all be lauded in this life, but the Lord does make one thing possible for all of us and that is we can all be clean. Now Isaiah saw that he was not clean. And he shows his true inner God-given nature by quickly confessing it. O I cannot believe that Isaiah used the Name of the Lord in vain. I cannot believe that he went about saying untruths Neither do I believe that he committed the sins of slandering. But when the prophet saw the Lord in all His Holiness he saw the true condition of the heart as the Lord sees it apart from the blood of Jesus Christ. O he saw the needs of the world without Christ and then as he compared his own conversation with that of what the Lord told Joshua in the first chapter of that book: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, for then shalt thou make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success;" he saw the real inner life of himself was not what he knew the Lord would and could make it be.

The little mound of pride increases so fast. The little circle or selfrighteousness will broaden as a circle in the river when you have thrown a little stone into its quiet waters. O what a

day it is when we really see how much of the old self life really is there after all. O the thoughts that center around ourselves and the things that would make self happy. The things that would make self great. The things that would make self rich in the things of this world.

We do not read that the Lord rebuked Isaiah. No, He never said a word to him that we read of before Isaiah confessed his sin. Simply the presence of One so Holy made Isaiah uncomfortable. The face of our Saviour is always a face of tender love and compassion. O the man that has ever seen the face of the Saviour will never forget it. There stands Isaiah. Out in the open where this pure, loving, unselfish Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ can look him all over. He sees him, but He does not condemn. It is the tenderness of that look now melting the heart of this man of God. Yes, it is not the critical look of the Saviour, but that look of a yearning heart which is just trying to reach out and make us like Himself that really breaks us down before Him. Peter denied his Lord. The more they tried to corner him the harder he became. Even the presence of John, that loving disciple, had no effect on his impulsive nature. But when Jesus looked at him he dropped his head and went out and wept bitterly. And so when you and I have really received a glimpse of our blessed Lord through the Holy Word we, like Isaiah, will cry out. We, too, may weep like Peter.

But thank God, when Isaiah cried out: "I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell amidst a peopeople of unclean lips," immediately we see the seraphim by his side. O faster than the flashing lightning the angel flew with that live coal from off the altar and touched the lips of the one that had so honestly confessed: "I am a man of unclean lips." And then the words "Lo this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin is purged." So quick is the response from heaven when one truly confesses from the heart that the prophet in a later chapter puts it like this under the inspiration of the Lord, "Before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear." What a comfort to know that when we get a true comprehension of our own unworthy self, it does not take the Lord a long time to purge the stain and take the sin away.

Many times we are tempted to think if the Lord would remove a certain thing from our

midst then we too could live a victorious Christian life. But in many instances the Lord permits these very things to be thrown across our pathway so that we may get a true vision of our own inner life. One time a minister was being very much annoyed by a certain woman that would come in to his services after the Sunday School hour. She would walk down the aisle and then very conspicuously place herself right in front of the minister. This wore so on this man's nerves that he finally prayed to the Lord to give him a different charge. The Lord finally gave him a different one but the very first Sunday that he was there, immediately after the Sunday School hour another woman of that city came down and placed herself even more conspicuously in front of him. By this time he began to see some of the true meaning of the words of Jesus in that prayer of the seventeenth chapter of John: "Father I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." And he cried to the Lord for deliverance, so that he might be able to bring the "Message" of the Lord to the people regardless of how many haughty women were brought in front of him. So often times through these

trying hours the Lord is merely showing us the true condition of our hearts when we are fretting and crying to the Lord to remove the very thing which He has permitted to come for our special improvement.

Sometimes there are hindrances in our lives which must first be removed before the blessing of the Lord will flow through us. small obstruction will sometimes come in and bar our way to real joy and happiness. as soon as we take the position that Isaiah did, the obstruction begins to break and water of eternal life begins to flow through the heart that has thus opened up before the Lord. The joy and power that will flow through such a life is beyond human expression. The hardest words to pronounce in the English language are these: "I am wrong." It is contrary to the old life of self to confess. The devil does not want us to expose one of his allies who is serving him so well. But when once we see that it is the devil that is keeping us back from going all the way with Jesus, we rise up in arms and we expose him in all his blackness. There was out in the mission field a man who had served the Lord so long but whom the devil succeeded to get his mind centered upon himself. Little by little this man grew formal and then indifferent until the work on the mission began to go down very rapidly. O thank God for those churches and missions which can only thrive when God is pleased with the work and the workers. They began to pray for a revival. Finally one day this man who had been one of the most trusted of all the missionaries on the field began to confess all his indifference and The Lord so poured out Himself upon that man so that he was again the greatest leader of that great revival. O the devil knows that when we begin to dig down that the Lord will so pour out Himself upon that one in the power of the Holy Ghost and fire that all of his efforts will be in vain to try and stop the revival that follows in the wake of the one that thus surrenders to the Lord.

No sooner had the Lord cleansed Isaiah than he showed him the great need of a lost world. He heard the call that he could not hear before. He responded with a hearty "Here am I, send me." After all, life is short. Those who have lived for anything else than for the glory of God and the salvation of souls will find that they have lived in vain when it comes to the end of the way. But there with his own heart

still filled with the wonder of the Saviour's face, he goes out to bear the "Message" of the Lord to those who were still untouched and to those who had not seen that face which he had seen.

And so there are millions still who have never heard of the Saviour as He really is. They have thought of religion in the form of burdensome luggage which you do not want to get stored up too heavily with. But when once they hear the "Message" of the Lord from the lips of one who had just been touched from heaven, they will never forget the moment when they saw the Christ-life protrayed in glowing colors on the face and in the life of that one. Paul standing by with nothing but a bitter heart for the salvation which Stephen preached, never could get away from that face which was lit up as the face of an angel while the stones were flying at him and breaking every bone he had. All the while he was being falsely accused, his face bore the halo of the One for whom he was about to lay down his life. All the years to follow Paul could not forget that face "which was as the face of an angel."

O let us ask Jesus to give us a new glimpse of Himself. And then as we really mean that

He should do exactly as we have asked, He will enable us to see our own self as He sees us. There is nothing that the Lord would more delight to do than to remove those things which are causing us so much trouble and are bringing so much sorrow into our lives.

"Search me O God and know my heart: Try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23, 24.

#### CHAPTER III

#### FAITH IN HIS ABIDING PRESENCE

"And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." John 14:16.

In this chapter I want to give you the profoundest secret of the Spirit-filled life. Many today are seeking after an experience. They are constantly measuring themselves by some one else. They feel that if they do not have the same experience that some one else has, that they are not in it. Some are seeking a feeling. Feeling means more to them then anything else. Again there are some that are seeking after power. Now the Lord did not tell His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem for power. He told them that they should receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon them. But He never told any one to seek for a power. All the fanaticism of this and bygone days can be traced to this one error: seeking for something that the Lord never told us to seek. How good it is to remember "Your heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of before you ask Him."

The Holy Spirit is a Person. That is He hears and speaks, He can be pleased and He can be grieved. We cannot see Him with our eyes which we have at the present time. But the Lord plainly tells us of the reality of the things which we cannot see. Many think of the Holy Spirit of God as being something which you must try to catch. If you happen to hit, you are alright; and if not, you are all wrong. O how it must grieve the Holy Spirit when we act like that about Him. He is an intelligent being. One who plans our lives in a perfectly rational way. One who sees the end from the beginning One who loves us with an everlasting love. The idea that many have of the Holy Spirit is sure to disgust the one who is really seeking to follow the lowly Master.

And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter. O what a name: "Comforter." How He is needed in this world of sorrow today. Hearts are bleeding all around us. No comfort. No real peace. There, no doubt, has never been a time when He was needed as He is needed today. Broken hearts and broken homes. Misunderstandings and

dissatisfaction in the lives of so many. All are either crying out consciously or unconsciously for this great Comforter. With all the swiftness of the age in which we live there has come a neglect of one another. In this day of the automobile, the airship, the radio and all the modern conveniences of the home there has come an independence and a something which is right near to selfishness, if it is not that altogether. And then in this condition with everything on the lightning train of express, it is so sweet to know that the Comforter has the time to come and live with us and to comfort our hearts. There is One who knows all about our needs. There is One who not only knows all about the need but He also knows all about the remedy. You look at present conditions and you ask where will it come to. What about all the great upheavals of our day. The crime wave, the underworld and all of Satan's devices are working with such rapidity that constantly new inventions are pouring in and broadcasted by the newspapers of our land. Where will it all lead to. No one knows what is going to happen next. But right here in the midst of all this, there is the Comforter. He knows all about our age. He knows all about the needs.

He knows the remedy. Then it is extremely comforting to know that He knows all about every individual. He knows all about your need. He understands your case when you do not understand yourself. Then He does not only understand your need, your troubles but He knows just how to help you. He knows just how to comfort us in the great trial of affliction and point us to the way out. How wonderful. There is not a need but what He knows all about it and just how to supply all of that need. There is no night so dark but what He knows just how to lead you through safely. No funeral that has ever been at your home but what He was right there to comfort. When the death messenger comes to your home the Comforter will be right there and will comfort as no man in all the earth can comfort. Jesus was a great comfort to all with whom He came in contact, but He says: "He shall send you another Comforter." So today He, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit is right there in the room with you and waits for you to let Him have complete control of your life. He is waiting for you to let Him come into your heart in all of His fullness. When He plans your life there will be that perfect harmony as you go along

for He sees the dangers that we cannot see.

Now the great secret and the real issue of the deeper life or the underlying support of it all is expressed in the last half of this great text: "That He may abide with you forever." O thank God when we fully and forever open every door of our heart to Him He comes in to stay. This is a secret which so few people are enjoying today. To most people the incoming of the Holy Spirit is an experience. But thank the Lord the incoming of the Holy Spirit is the incoming of an intelligent Person of the God-Head who comes in to abide. He comes in not to leave us in some great trial but to take us through the Trial. He does not come in to make us miserable or to deprive us from some enjoyment but to bring us that true joy which will make our Christian life a blessing to others.

In that day when Moses became bewildered and asked the Lord, "Who wilt thou send with me?" the Lord gave him that secret of this walk with God: "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." What a comfort it must have been to Moses as the Lord went with him. And he even went so far as to say: "And so shall we be separated, I and thy people

from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." The great joy of the one that has opened the heart to the Lord, does not come from the blessings which the Holy Spirit bestows upon that one but it comes because of the presence of the One whom we have learned to love. Jacob was a busy man. On that day when he was overcome with trouble, when he went out to meet his brother Esau who was coming with four hundred men, he had no time to let God lead. O'tis true he hurriedly prayed. But when He saw the host of God, which he recognized as such, he had no time to wait upon Him, but hurried on to complete his own arrangements. How different it was they were marching against Ioshua. As Jericho, Joshua too saw a man with His sword Joshua drew near and asked Him for what intentions He had come: "Art thou for us or for our adversaries?" And when the Lord told him that He had come as a Leader of the host of Israel Joshua fell on his face. And the Lord told him to pull off his shoes for the place where he stood was holy ground. No doubt it was there that the Lord could speak to him and tell him of the plans of God to take Jericho and of the way the Lord would lead His people

as long as they would follow Him. Too many people are so hi-strung that they have no time to recognize the leadings of this blessed Holy Spirit. They rush on in their own strength and go from one failure to another simply because they do not recognize Him as their true Leader. O when we become so taken up with this Person that we forget the trivial things which are annoying us so, our life will become a power for God and then will be fulfilled the saying of Jesus "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The power will be there because He is there. wisdom will be there because He is present, not merely because He is consulted but because He is there continually. We will be under His constant personal direction.

What a calm comes to my soul as I realize that it is not my experience but it is His presence. It is not what He was to me the day when He baptized me with the Holy Spirit and with fire, but it is what He is to me today. So then we are His. Our days are his. We have then no cares, but they are His. O this is His

work, not ours. Many have worn out their bodies in their own strength and became a nervous wreck simply because they tried to do what the Lord had intended to do for them. They tried to do the work of the Lord instead of simply letting the Lord use them.

Then as we continue to follow Jesus our life becomes one constant stream of letting. We only let the Lord do the things He wants to do through us. Thus as we become accustomed to letting God have His way, we can carry this wonderful Truth right into our everyday life. How much different will be the thoughts toward our fellowman as we recognize the hand of the Lord in every thing we do. We depend on Him to find our place of work, we look to Him to make the hearts of those with whom we have to do congenial. The Life that is thus lived with the Lord in that realm of faith has privileges and blessings which the average man or woman knows very little about. This is living in the glory of the Lord. This is the Life of Faith. This is what Paul refers to when he says: "For our conversation is in heaven from whence we also look for the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Our conversation, our citizenship, or our walk will be in the heavenlies. Our physical being will be down here but with Him in the spirit.

Then over in Romans 8:11 we read a special promise for the quickening or healing of the body that has let the Holy Spirit come in: "For if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies, by His Spirit that dwelleth in you." So the Lord on the inside and our faith in His finished work on the cross will give new life even for the physical being. What a privilege to have our great Physician to come and live in our physical frame and then let His own strength become ours.

Then as we go on from day to day, He will lead us to see what great things He will lead us through and what a blessed life of "letting Him" lead really is ours. New paths He will lead us into every day. Untried fields will lie before us. But come what will; we have learned that we really can depend on Him in all things. We can trust Him even when we cannot see the way. Then as our confidence grows and we can better trust in the time of blackness, He can lead on still farther and farther. Into this life of complete surrender and

of this walk of faith with the Lord there is no end. Some have gone in part way, while some have gone in farther. Some have gone so far that they can just swim along with ease. But it is our privilege to go out and out into the great depth until we have lost sight of all bottom. Out there our all depends on Him. There we have ceased our struggling. There we know all of our own efforts would be in vain. And so in quiet repose we rest. Rest on His everlasting arms. Rest under His sheltering wings. What a privilege, what comfort, what joy. "I will pray the Father that He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." Just let Him come in today.

He is so anxious to come into your life to-day. For He says: "If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." Lk. 11:13 He is standing right there by your side, dear Christian. He is just waiting for you to ask Him to come in. In this too "He will in no wise cast you out." There with your entire heart surrendered, there with all of your own desires buried deep in His, He says: "This is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according

to His will He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." When we are dealing with the Lord we are sure He hears and keeps His Word with a heart which is entirely abandoned to Him. But some one will say: "But what will I feel like when He thus baptizes me with the Holy Ghost. Will there be a manifestation in the body? Will there be a great joy sweeping over me? Or how will I feel?" You might as well ask me, "What will my neighbor act like when he comes in this morning?" Or you might ask, "What will be the first words that my friend will tell me when that friend comes into my house?" The intelligent and scriptural answer is just this: "Since the Holy Spirit is a Person and He divides to every one severally the gifts as He sees best for the common good, since He is a Person with a sovereign will, it is best to just let Him come in and let Him act as He sees fit." The one thing that is important is: Be sure to let Him come in.

He abides, He abides,
Hallelujah He abides within.
I'm rejoicing night and day;
As I walk the narrow way;
For the Comforter abides within.

## PART SIX

# Faith in the Lord's Return CHAPTER I

# FAITH IN THE TIME OF THE LORD'S COMING

"What shall be the sign of Thy Coming?" Matt. 24:3.

The one thing that the Saviour spoke about so much was His return to earth. The Truth of the Lord's return is spoken of throughout the Word of God again and again. It is referred to more than any other subject. There is nothing that occupied the mind of the Lord so much as the time when He would again be united with His followers in spirit, soul and body. The Lord's coming is mentioned over three hundred and forty times in the New Testament alone. One out of every twenty five verses deals with this Truth so near at hand. Entire chapters deal with it. It is the Theme of entire books

of the Word of God. Then in the Old Testament it is referred to again. It is true that the Lord's coming as a Babe is mentioned in the Old Testament prophecies, but to every time that His first coming is referred to, His second coming is mentioned twenty times. Or His coming as the King is mentioned twenty times more than His coming as a suffering Saviour. We know that His prophecies came true in regards to His first coming and surely His promises in regards to His second coming which are so much stronger and given more in detail will come to pass.

Naturally anything that was so often repeated in the Old Testament and referred to so often by the Lord Himself, would interest the disciples. They too knew that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth and that here we have no continuing city. They became not only interested to know about His return but were beginning to wonder of the time that He would come back. As they were leaving the temple and admiring the costly and precious stones, they asked Jesus the above question which has been repeated thousands of times since that time: "What shall be the sign of thy coming?"

They did not ask Hiim when He would re-

turn but "what shall be the sign of thy coming?" Jesus plainly said in Matt. 24:36: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no not the angels of heaven, but my Father." Here Jesus very definitely refuted all setting of dates as to His return. If we keep in line with the teaching of the scriptures we shall never be led into fanaticism. It is this same Truth with which we have tried to admonish the reader all along in this simple Message: Believe the Word. So here we must be very careful as in all other Truths to keep entirely to the Word of God. No matter if we can understand it or not, we can believe it and rely on it for His Word never fails. It is so precious to know that the Lord always tells the people ahead if He is about to do something. We read in Isa. 42:9: "Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." That is, all the things which the Lord had said would come to pass are coming in just the time and manner which He said. And now He is about to do new things, but before He does them He tells us about them. After His disciples had asked Him in regards to this great Truth He immediately begins to answer their question directly. He did not try to evade the question as many are trying to do today, but went right straight to the center of it.

He begins by saying: "Take heed that no man deceive you." That is, the time around the coming of the Lord would be very deceptive. So much so that He says if it were possible the very elect would be deceived. He goes on to tell them that many would come in His name. Even before the Anti-Christ will make his appearance there will be those who will teach anti-Christion doctrines. That is, there will be those who will teach salvation by culture and thus make the blood of Christ of none effect. Any teaching without the Blood of Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, as its foundation, is anti-Christian. O how we need to draw near to the Saviour, read and keep to His Word, and let the Holy Spirit come into our hearts in all of His fullness to be guarded past all these shoals and pitfalls which our Saviour so emphatically warns us against.

Again we read in 2 Tim. 3: "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come." Then He begins to enumerate all the traits and sins of carnality. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boast-

ers, proud blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." O what a list of sins are mentioned here. One turns from them all in horror. How disgusting it all sounds. And yet this is just what the Lord said would exist in the time of the end. Can it be possible that the human heart could ever present so dark a picture as this. I well remember when I was only a very small boy my parents had a book which we called the book of the heart. In it were the pictures of the heart in its different stages. There was the heart of innocency. Then there was the picture of the one who went on in his sins. And how my heart would shudder as I beheld the ever darkening shadows make their way into that heart. But the Saviour stands on the outside and finally He is admitted. Then the devil with all of these carnal desires and pictures of all the malignant hate of hell would move out. I still feel the thrill of joy that would go through me as I watched the dark shadows flee away and the glorious sunlight of God's love come in and possess every corner of the

heart of man. For a time all was well. But the Devil offered his suggestions and offers of greater happiness and then the man would deliberately turn over to the devil and the Lord with sad countenance would have to leave until the backslider was burned by the devil and invited the Saviour back again. How sad to think that people do not fully understand and will invite the Devil in instead of the Lord who would bring lasting joy and happiness.

Then the Lord goes on to say: "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." That is, that in the last days many would have the appearance of being Christians but deny the power thereof. Many will be ready to erect monuments to a dead Christ, they will give thousands of dollars to put up that beautiful structure, and yet they vehemently deny His power over the hearts, bodies, and lives of men. There are those who will endow schools which are supposed to teach the principles of Christ when in reality they deny it all. There are those who will again believe in what Christ used to do. But they are the first to deny anything that He does at the present time. These latter are as the Lord says in Rev. 3, "Luke warm" which are about

ready to be spued out of the mouth of the Saviour. And O their number is legion today.

Then the Lord goes on to give a description of the world as a whole. "Iniquity shall abound." In the ninth chapter of Revelation the twentyfirst verse, the Lord enumerates the four great sins of the last days. He calls them "murders, sorceries, fornications and thefts." In these four the last day sins are practically all enumerated. O the awful crime wave of today, the disregard for human life is appalling. Men are shot down in cold blood. Police and other officials confess that it is beyond their control. Penitentiaries are flooded. In spite of the gallows, the noose, and the chair, many have been so hardened that they went to their doom with very little realization as to what was awaiting them on the other side. Then the sorceries, which means to cast a spell over, regardless as to how that is done. The awful trickery of the devil is manifested in so many ways. Sorcery has been translated that way from the Greek word drugs, meaning to cast a spell over by the use of the drug. It refers to any way by which one may be overcome by another in a way other than by physical force. Then that pollution of immorality. The awful picture of the parks,

the ball, the dance, with all the shameful immodesty of the day, and companionate marriage. All this which would make any one hide his face in shame has become a terrible reality in this twentieth century day. Then the last—"thefts." Twenty years ago there was an occasional robbery. Here and there one was held up. But the whole country heard about it. Today banks, stores and men are robbed. Those who resist in any way are shot down. If you are a close friend, you hear about it. If he is a loved one your heart is torn. But if you are only living next door to him you hardly find out about it. All this shows the extent of the crimes and the way in which it all is treated.

But then there are other signs which are unmistakable. We read in Nahum 2, in speaking about the day of His preparation He says in verse 3 and 4, "The chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of His preparation. . The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broadways, they shall seem like torches, they shall run like lightnings." What a graphic picture of the automobile of today. What a picture painted at a time when there were only the narrow thoroughfares. So close that only three or four could

walk abreast in the entire street. As the prophet looked down the years the Holy Spirit caused him to name our streets long years before we called them: "Broadway." For there is hardly a city without a street of that name. Which one of our fathers would have believed it if some one would have told them that they would ride around in an automobile. How minutely it is all described: "They shall jostle one against another." O the accidents of our day. "They shall be like flaming torches, they shall run like lightning." As the man of God looked down the line he did not know what to call them so he called them by the best name he knew: "Chariots." The name automobile had not yet been

In Isaiah 31:5, we have another very special given, for the auto was not yet here.

description of the aeroplane: "As birds flying so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem." This was fulfilled to the very letter when General Allenby took the Holy City from the Turks during the World War. The Turks did not know just what to think of these planes and rather than to fall into the hands of these strange monsters they willingly surrendered to the British. The prophet saw all this in his vision. He did not know what to call these things. The only

thing that he had ever seen fly besides an angel was a bird, and so he simply calls them birds.

The present search in science, resulting in the marvelous inventions of our day characterizes our day as the last days, since the Lord says through the prophet Daniel, "Knowledge shall be increased." Then again "many shall run to and fro." How literally this is being fulfilled. Thirty years ago there was very little traveling. When any one had been out of the state, he was looked up to. But today very few have not been in half a dozen different states. Most people have traveled for miles. Many have been to the coast on both sides of our nation, while scores have been abroad. With all the concrete highways crowded and the machines are defying the speed limit of forty miles an hour and are running by the traffic cops at the rate of fifty and sixty miles an hour and then they get there too late. Trains from every big center are over-loaded, while the depots are crowded with the transients. O we sure are living in a marked day. The Lord has singled out the days that you and I are living in and has called them the last days.

Scores of signs could be related; signs in the sun, the moon and the stars. But this is suf-

ficient to convince any fair-minded person that we are living in a marked day. That we are living in a day such as there has not been since the day that morning stars sang together.

While Jesus did not tell us of the day nor of the hour, yet He did tell us to watch for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh. "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping, and what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:35-37.

### CHAPTER II

# FAITH IN WHAT THE LORD SAID AS TO HOW HIS RETURN WOULD AFFECT THE SAINTS

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout: with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4:16-18.

In the thirteenth verse of this great chapter the Lord tells us: "But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren," and then He goes on to tell us of the return of our Lord and those who have gone on before and how it will affect the living and the dead saints. We are all interested in how it will affect us when He will return, when we all have some loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord and we are so anxious to know just how and when we will meet one another again.

In verse fourteen we read: "Them also which

sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." And again Paul says, "I have a desire to depart and be with the Lord." From all this we clearly see that the dead in Christ are now in the presence of the Lord. While they have not yet received their resurrection bodies, yet they are happy in the presence of the One whom they loved. These the Lord says will God bring with Him. Then He says, "The dead in Christ shall rise first." That is before we shall receive our immortal bodies they will be reunited with their resurrected bodies. Some will say how can this be? This same question was asked in Paul's time, and he answers it in the following manner: "Thou fool that which thou sowest is not quickened except and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat or some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him and to every seed his own body." Just as the new ear of corn is not the old kernel which was planted into the ground so the new body will not be that old body but it will be a new body as it hath pleased Him. As much likeness as the new kernel bears to the old, so much likeness the new body will blear to the old one. There will be many marks of the old but as much as a new ear of corn outshines the old kernel so much and even more will the new immortal body outshine the old worn body. Thank God our old body will have given way to the new. Old diseases will then be unknown. Tired bodies will then be a thing of the past. The body of Jesus in the transfiguration was so bright that the three disciples could not look at it. And we read, "We know that when He shall appear we shall be like him for we shall see Him as He is" with all His glory we shall be clothed. With all of His beauty we shall be adorned.

Then the rewards will be determined and given out at the time of the resurrection of the just. Paul says if he preaches the Gospel a reward awaits him. And again if we give to drink a cup of cold water to one of His disciples we shall in no wise lose our reward. Again our works shall be tried by fire and if they are not burned we shall receive a reward. He says our works are as wood, hay or stubble or they are as gold, silver and precious stone. He classifies the former as dead works or works that have been done not to the glory of God but to the praise of self. To such Jesus said they had their reward. "Therefore my beloved brethren be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding

in the work of the Lord forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Cor. 15:58. O thank the Lord we do not have to keep an account of all that we are doing for the Lord here. But we can rest assured that over there where the records are perfectly kept and where there is no one to cheat, the Lord says "ye know that your work is not in vain in the Lord." Praise His Name. One time when my children were very small and we were living out in the country in Illinois I had to leave early to get the morning train to get to my appointment to conduct a revival meeting. There was a blinding snow storm on. I drove out of the gate with the horses to go to the nearest depot. I had bid my wife "Good-bye" out in the snow storm. The girls I had kissed "Good-bye" while they were still sleeping, for it was still dark. As I drove away and had seen the last tears rolling down the cheeks of my dear wife, I remembered the girls on the evening before: "O daddy I wish you would not have to go." Then I looked around the community. All around there were no lights. All other daddys were at home keeping the fire warm for their little ones to get dressed by. Other wives had their husbands to care for the place and here I

was going. And after all I said it may be all in vain? While the hot flushes were thus going through my entire being; Lo there was a voice from within: "Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as ye know that your work is not in vain in the Lord."

O there is a day of reward coming. There is a day coming when all will receive their just dues. The one who has suffered out in the battle fields for Christ will receive a reward while the one who has been saved and then gone to be with Jesus will be saved and both will share heaven, but the reward will be accordingly.

Now the great question is, "Who will go and who will be left behind?" There is no family that will be a favored family then as is the case sometimes in this world. There is no race or creed distinction in that resurrection morning. There is going to be a great separation for Jesus says: "Two shall be at the mill grinding, one shall be taken and the other left. Two shall be in bed, one shall be taken and the other left." Thus it goes to show that some of one family will go and some of that same family will be left behind. There is no race, family or creed distinction with the Lord. But the true solution

for this Truth is found in the book of Daniel, the twelfth chapter. Daniel is speaking of that great tribulation which shall take place at the time of the Lord's return, and says, "At that time shall thy people be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Then he goes on to speak of the resurrection. This goes to show that all those who have their names written in the Book of Life will be delivered, or be translated and the dead in Christ will be resurrected, just before the living will be changed to His full and perfect likeness.

How important then that our names are written in that book. Everything depends on that. Our health, our happiness and our eternal welfare depends upon that. There are some who may have had their names written in that book and yet afterward when tribulation ariseth for the Word's sake, they are offended. On the isle of Patmos Jesus Himself tells John in Rev. 3:5, "He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Here the Lord tells us just how to keep our names in that book after we have once had them put there. It goes to show that there is a possibility to have our names blotted out, but He also is

very specific in telling us how we may keep them there. He says: "He that overcometh" this then is the secret. The one that overcometh shall not be blotted out of the book of life.

O the secret then is to be an overcomer. Many today are succumbers. They are constantly being overcome. Being overcome by evil habits, bad tempers and are in no way able to meet the "Goliath" who is challenging the hosts of God today. Jesus said just before He went away: "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." O He tells us the secret of this overcoming life. He tells us the way to live a victorious life. He shows us how to keep our names on that book of life which insures us against that day of wrath against ungodly men.

Then yield him your body, soul and spirit. For He says "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." Your entire body. Your hands, your feet, your eyes, your tongue, your mind and every member of that body. Tell Him: "Lord the Holy Spirit has

none of these members which we can see for He is a Spirit. I give these to you. To be yours, at your service, at thy will, at thy command. Dear Lord clothe Thyself with me. Come into my being and so possess me and there will be no more room for anything or any one else." The sweet presence of the Lord will then so fill and thrill our being and every fiber will be radiant with that heavenly flame. Thus He will live the Life in us. It will no longer be our strength, but His. It will no longer be our wisdom, but His. No longer our battle, but His. No more our troubles but all will be His.

All of this is a call to a holy life of prayer. For it is only as we keep in touch with Him that we are able to stand up under the tremendous strain through which God's children will be called to pass through in the last few closing days of time. We are living in times when it takes more to stand than when our fathers were young men. While sin is the same in essence yet the enemy has not only changed his tactics but has also increased his forces. We are living in those days when the enemy too knows that his time is short. He well realizes that the Lord is soon to come and that He is doomed to spend the thousand years bound in the pit, and

finally spend eternity in the flames with no hope of escape. All this infuriates the serpent and turns with double force in these last days upon the Christians.

But thank the Lord we are not and need not be defeated. The Lord has promised right up to the time of the end. That while many will be corrupt by flatteries yet those that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. O what a hope. What a bright prospect for those who like to see things move for the Lord. This is the greatest day that has ever been, so far as opportunities are concerned. Never before in all the history of the world has it been possible for any "Messenger" of God to spread the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ as today. The auto, the aeroplane, the press and the radio together with the use of large inexpensive tabernacles to swiftly spread this wonderful Gospel. If I would have been able to choose the time of my sojourn and pilgrimage here in this world of service for Jesus Christ and could have seen all the opportunities that are lieing around our pathway today I surely would have chosen to wait live during these last few closing days of time.

With the near coming of the Lord what should we do? Should we sell all that we have

and make sure that all of our means will be rightly disposed of when we are gone? What is the right attitude for a Christian to take that believes in the imminent return of our Lord? In Matt. 28 and Mark 16:15-20 we read of the last command that the Saviour gave us before He left. He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Go out and tell the "Good News" that Jesus Christ died and rose again to pay the penalty of the fall. If the king of England were to die it would only be a matter of a day or two until all of his subjects would know of the death of their ruler. But after 1900 years there are people living in this Christian land of America that do not know that Jesus Christ the Son of the living God has died. And not only died as other men die, but that He died as a sacrifice for our sins. According to Matt. 24 and I Peter 5 it is the duty of those who have been called of the Lord to give them their portion of meat in due season. That is, right through all this there will still be those who will give their hearts to the Lord and there will be those who will still need to be fed on the sincere milk of the Word of God. The Lord says, "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh will find so doing." The wireless operator on board ship is to stick to his job. Even to the danger of his life when he might have a possible chance to escape before the ship sinks. And so the duty of the child of God is not to try to run away from the work. It is not to wish ourselves away off in heaven some where with our families. But it is the will of the Lord that His people stick by the job to the very last.

O what a day that will be when all these overcomers will come marching Home. We read in I Peter 4:18, "If the righteous scarcely be saved where will the ungodly and sinner ap. pear?" There it gives the impression that the righteous man will get to heaven by a narrow margin. But the meaning is this. "A man will come to Jesus and the Lord gives him His right-That is there is no other way to be saved. That man will get to heaven. But he will have no reward. Also the man who will be saved so as by fire. That means that his works which he has done to be seen of men will be burned up but because he has been saved and accepted the Lord into his own heart he will be saved, this man will scarcely be saved. But this same apostle in the very next chapter speaks of another entrance into that pearly white city. II Peter 1:11, "So an entrance shall be administered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." O this does not speak of a nip and tuck experience. This is not being saved yet so as by fire. this chapter the Lord has been dealing with the overcomer and says: "So an entrance shall be administered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." O what a day it will be when those who have been saved by the blood of the Lamb will come marching Home. The Lord will welcome them, because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. But me thinks the gates are thrown open wide. There is that stir in heaven, the angels taking their place, with jeweled harps. There they are row upon row and tier upon tier in the balconies of the skies. Then in the distance there come another blood washed throng. They are nearing. You hear the tramping of the feet. They walk as if they had been in the army here. Then as they near the gate the Lord arises. The angelic band begins to play. The strains fill the air until the ether waves carry the song out into the endless space for a million miles or more. The gates our Saviour Himself pushes back and then they

come marching through the gates with this abundance entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

What a day when there in that pearly white city where the gates never swing out the overcomers then will sing their song. Angels then will silent be for they could never sing this song for they have never been redeemed. What a song when they will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. What a song that new song will be. Some of these songs have almost been immortalized because of their message of the Saviour. But what a message in that song when angels cannot sing.

It is worth while working for. O what are the little discouragements of this life, what of these trials which the great apostle called "these light afflictions" at the time he was sitting in that cold dark cell awaiting the verdict of a heathen monarch.

O is your name written there? If not, won't you just now before you continue to read this book tell the Lord: "God be merciful to me a sinner." Yes, Jesus is waiting to hear just such a whisper as that from some one today. And you are the one for whom He is listening just now.

#### CHAPTER III

# FAITH IN WHAT THE LORD SAID AS TO HOW HIS COMING WOULD AFFECT THE UNSAVED

"Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left." Matt. 24:40.

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time no nor ever shall be." Matt. 24:21.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Rev. 20:5.

"And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and Lo there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell into the earth even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together: and every mountain and every island were moved out of their places. And the kings of earth and the great men, and the rich men and the chief captains, and the mighty men and every bondman and every free man hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:12-17.

Others: O that there were no others. How wonderful if every one would turn to the Lord and be saved from that awful day that is coming.

In this chapter as in the previous one there are the two classes to deal with: the living and the dead. There are those who will be alive at the return of our Lord and there are those who have been dead for centuries. It is in respect to these two classes that this chapter deals. We are not dealing with those who have their names written in the Lamb's Book of life. We dealt with them in the foregoing chapter. But there are the others. There always will be those others. Not that there need be. But because they will be.

One thing is very plain in the first text above that there are those that will be left. And from the previous chapter we have seen that all of those who have their names written in the Book will be delivered, and so all they who do not have their names written in the Book will as the text says: "Be left." It is always a sad thing to be left behind. Once in my life I missed the train. It was indeed an unpleasant experience. I was to preach a funeral sermon about fifty miles away. The ticket agent told me the train

Just as I came within several hundred feet the train left the station. I stood there in the dark on that early morning and thought what I would feel like if I were thus left behind when the Lord would return. This world is full of such experiences as that, but we always have a way out. But what a sad time that must be to know that our loved ones have gone to be with the Lord and we are left behind. God grant that none that will read this book will have that sad experience to go through.

There will as a natural result of this be a great stir for a short time at least. Great headlines will report the missing in the daily press. Those who have lived so far from the Lord as not to have had any of the family to go will think it strange. If they are affected by some one having been taken out of their business they will naturally have to have their needs supplied. Babies will be taken out of their little cribs so nicely that their little nighties will be undisturbed. Mothers who have never heard of this wonderful coming of Jesus will be horrified thinking that their little ones had been kidnapped. But those who have heard of this blessed Truth will remember and soon the news will

spread that Jesus had been here and taken His waiting ones Home. Then some will remember how that during the night they heard a distant sound as of thunder but they only thought it a regular occurrence and they turned over and went to sleep again. Dear sainted mothers will be gone and the wayward children will be left to face the world and the anti-christ and then do their own praying. Careless husbands or wives will find that their mates who so faithfully followed the Lord are gone to be with the One they loved.

Think for just one moment what all this would mean in a crowded thoroughfare. Automobiles going at fifteen or twenty miles an hour. One driver translated in a moment in the twinkling of an eye. The driver gone and the car goes on and crashes into the machine next to it or runs over the curb and into the large show case or into a crowd that too has been left behind. A street car motorman taken and his car going through the red light and crashing into people or machines. A railway engineer taken and his train running on into the open switch. All this will cause a great deal of excitement and work to get things going again. But within a short time things will be on the go as before.

People who once knew the Lord may then begin to see their fate and begin to pray. Preachers who have played with their calling may then get busy and preach the Gospel. The supper rooms in some cases may then be supplanted with an upper room where prayer will be made. But on the whole the world and men of the world will run on after their four great sins of Rev. 9:21.

These sins will run on unhindered. Blood lust, money, sex and demon lust will be at their very worst. No restraining influence. Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world," and again, "Ye are the salt of the earth." Thus when the light of the world and the salt of the earth are all gone, what an awful condition this world will be in. No light, all in spiritual darkness. Men and women trying to grope along as the heathen do. No salt, no strength, no purity. Nothing to curb the mad and wild lust of the devil. Then satan will work still more and harder than now for he knows that his time is very short.

In this time will be that great tribulation which Jesus said: "For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the creation, no nor ever shall be." There have

been dark days. Psalm 137:9; Isaiah 13:16 and Hosea 13:16 shows us of some of the awful tribulations which have already taken place, but He states of this time that there will be a time of tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world no nor ever shall be. With all the modern means of warfare this dreadful persecution will encircle the globe in a very short time. Gases, electrically controlled aeroplanes spreading this deadly poison will all be used.

The anti-christ, the one known as the man of sin, will be satan incarnate to carry on this terrible time, which is designated as "the time of Jacob's trouble." In II Thess. 2 the Lord tells us that He that letteth or restraineth will be taken out of the way and then shall that wicked one be revealed. That is, the anti-christ cannot be singled out positively now, until the people of God have been taken out of the way. But then he will boldly claim that he is God. With an organized world for him to work on, and with all the Christian influence removed it will not be a hard matter for him to pull everything his way. We read "he shall enter in peacefully." He will be a man of unexcelled ability, because the devil will give him his very soul. All the

experience of bygone years which the devil has will be at his disposal.

But all of this is only for an appointed time. Jesus at this time is in the air with His Bride. There the marriage supper of the Lamb is taking place. There the Lord is giving out the rewards. There the Lord is assigning each one of us to our duty throughout the great millennial reign. While the devil is playing havoc with this old world, Jesus is organizing His kingdom up in the air. What a time that will be for all the true children of God, as one by one is commissioned. All this will be done as to our faithfulness here. For Jesus spoke of it in this manner, as to those who have been faithful, "Well done thou good servant, because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities." O the time that we are living in now is not simply determining whether we will get to go to heaven or not. But we are really now proving or disproving ourselves as to our faithfulness and our ability to reign with Him as He says in Rev. 20:6 we "shall reign with Him a thousand years."

While the Lord thus is getting His forces organized the Devil is busy here. There in that last great battle we read of the captains and

the mighty men, bondmen and freemen, being gathered together. And there while satan is actually getting ready to fight with the Son of God and His armies we read: "I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him, upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and white." And while the Lord with all of His dear saints, those who were resurrected and those who were translated will be coming down, we read: "And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them which had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

Thus is the devil bound. The anti-christ and the false prophet in the pit and the evil men all gone the Lord now sets up His glorious kingdom. This will last for a thousand years. After which the devil shall be loosed for a short season. At this time all those who still persist in serving the devil will be given an opportunity to show their colors. Then at the close of this short season will be the great judgment day. This is described in the last few verses of our text at the beginning of this chapter. This is opened with a great earthquake. Next the sun will lose its brilliancy. The moon will be turned to blood, and the stars will fall from heaven. Then the heavens shall depart and be rolled together as a scroll. The mountains and islands will be moved out of their places by that universal earthquake. O this looks impossible to us now. But at the time that Moses and the Israelites were before the Mt. at Sinai the mountain shook and was tossed when the Lord came down to speak with Moses. And even in modern times by earthquakes the earth has been shaken and at sea the waters departed and the mighty deep revealed what was at its bottom with its mouth open wide. At this time there will be a great prayer meeting. It will be attended, the text says, by the kings of the earth and the great men, the rich, the chief captains and the mighty men,

every bondman and freeman. There out in the open and not in some fine carpeted church edifice they will be kneeling side by side. There with no race or society distinction they will be calling with one accord. But the thing that is different from the prayer meetings that are held now is that at that time they will not pray for salvation but will cry to the rocks and to the mountains to fall on them. What a mercy death would be. Men do all in their power to avoid death today. But at that time they will seek death, but alas! all in vain. Those jumping into the sea will only find that the sea will give up its dead. Those that have taken poison will only find that they have now an indestructible body. O what a terrible day it will be.

We cannot tell with human lips or describe with mortal pen the horrors of that day of God's wrath. Leave takings are sad here, but they are usually attended with the hope of meeting again. We say "Good-bye" here but expect to meet in a few days or weeks or months again. Even when death invades our homes and takes some loved one away that has fallen asleep in Jesus it is only moderated sorrow, for we know we shall meet where the gates swing outward never. We know that we'll never say "Good-

bye" in heaven and so this is all merely moderated sorrow. We know we shall meet one another again. O what hope, what comfort to the one that has laid some loved one into the grave. What joy as we think of that glad morning at the resurrection when with incorruptible bodies we shall be able to stand on top of our own graves and shout hallelujah, then death shall be swallowed up in victory. But what an awful leave taking that will be at that great white Throne. There where praying mothers and all who have accepted the Saviour as their own personal Saviour will be seated on the Throne with the Lord as the host of Christ rejectors will come marching by the Throne for the last time. Son and mother will see each other for the last time. What a sad farewell that will be. "Good-bye, good-bye, forever good-bye mother." There the one, who has said no to that loving call of the Saviour, will look back into mother's face for the last time as he goes down forever. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near, let the wicked forsake His ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God for He will abundantly pardon."

Like Lot was told to flee out of Sodom so you are told to flee from the wrath to come. O flee to the Saviour today. The night is coming. That time of anguish will come upon the soul without God. "When I see the Blood I will pass over you." O come today. No longer delay.

I stood at the time beaten portals,
Where many a pilgrim had passed
Out into the infinite future,
To be with the pure and the blest.
And musing in silent devotion,
Eternity seemed to draw near,
And strains from the choir of the faithful
I seemed in my fancy to hear.

I lingered and silently listened
To the dull heavy tread of the years,
And thought of the fate of the guilty,
When Christ in His glory appears.
A shudder came over my spirit,
As I thought what a moment might cost,
For eternity's stillness was broken,
By the groans and the sighs of the lost.

I saw then the Judge in His splendor,
As He stepped to His great judgment seat,
And thought of the crashing of ages,
When time and eternity meet.
For time who has laid many millions,
To slumber in death's silent shade,
Shall reel at eternity's presence,
And sleep in the tomb he has made.

Let us work while 'tis day brother, sister, For soon shall the Master appear, To garner the wheat that we harvest, The chaff in His fury destroy. Then in haste let us rush to the rescue, But few can we save at the most: Soon millions shall be at the judgment, Forever eternally lost.

O eternity, long eternity, Hear the solemn footsteps; Of eternity.

#### CHAPTER IV

# FAITH IN WHAT THE LORD SAID AS TO HOW HIS RETURN WOULD AFFECT THE UNIVERSE IN GENERAL

Rev. 20:1-7

Six times, in these seven verses the Lord definitely mentions these "One Thousand Years." It was not only revealed to John out on the isle of Patmos where he had been exiled "for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ;" but throughout the Bible we read again and again regarding this age so near at our doors. It is not heaven, but the dispensation just before that state.

Paul writes of this in Romans 8:19-23. R. V. The earth, vegetation, animals and humanity are groaning under the bondage of corruption. God did not make the earth corrupt and soaked with human blood. He never filled the earth with seed of all kinds of noxious weeds. God did not put that ravenous nature into the an-

imals, ready to devour one another at any moment. It was not in the plan of God that man's hands should be calloused, and face wrinkled with cares. God did not make the human body all twisted out of shape with rheumatism, or eaten up inch by inch from a deadly cancer. Thank God what was lost through the fall will largely be restored during this period.

In Isaiah 11:6-9 we read how even the animals will once more be restored to their original state of meekness. Even though Satan has made the lion and the leopard the fearful enemy of man, Jesus Christ has even bought back the friendship of the animal kingdom.

At the fall, the curse on the earth was: "Thorns and thistles also shall it bring forth to thee," Gen. 3:18. But in this time of Christ's reign we read in Isaiah 55:13: "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree." No more thorns to prick the hands. No more thistles to mar the golden fields of grain.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep; all through the fall of Lucifer, the covering angel, being lifted up in pride, and

falling from his high position. But God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Not a gloomy demon infested and germ inoculated light as we have today. But a light, that God who was accustomed to that pure light of heaven, could look through and say "that it was good." The brightest day of summer only reveals how filthy and heavy-laden the light really is. But in Isaiah 30:26 we read: over the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be seven-fold, as the light of seven days in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." O what a day when not only the air but the light will be clear and resplendent once more by the touch of God.

"There will be no more war," Isaiah 2:4. Peace treaties and leagues of nations, nice and sincere as they may appear, are mere scraps of paper so long as nations do not have Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace at the Head. But in that day disobedience to parents, lawlessness, and crime will be outlawed by the King of kings and Lord of lords.

People will again become old as before the flood. Isaiah 65:20. Deaths will be few. A man

dying at one hundred years of age will be considered a child. Public sentiment will be running high in favor of Jesus. No sinner will be popular.

Yet all this good environment will not destroy the sin of the heart. There is only one remedy for that. "The Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin." For no sooner will "Satan be loosed for a little season" till his rebellious nature will ignite the sin in men's hearts, in those who have not applied to Jesus for rest of soul, and again the millennium ends in failure, as all the other ages have ended. O how we need the blood of Jesus Christ to wash away our sins! Good environment, good teaching and all of our modern culture will never take away sin, it will never pull the sting of death out of the human heart. No, nothing but faith in the finished work of Jesus will ever do that. But thank God! Faith in His Word will wash the vilest sinner clean.

All this will be good. It will be a great thing to be permitted to live on the earth during the reign of Christ on the earth. But the Christian that is going all the way with God now will have something far better than that. We are now looking for the Lord to come for His saints at

any moment.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet, when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which are alive, and remain, shall be changed in less time than it takes you to read this. I Thes. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:52-55, Phil. 3:20-21. We will receive our immortal bodies then. Bodies brighter than the sun at noonday. For we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. We will not die at nine hundred years of age as those on the earth at that time. No, we will not even be subject to fatigue. "Our garments will never grow threadbare, but always be fadeless and new." Bodies that will be like His after the resurrection. Bodies with which we can go through closed doors as Jesus did after the resurrection. John 20: 19. Bodies that we can appear to any one at will and yet withhold our identity if we care to. Luke 24:13-32.

At the present, Satan is the prince of the power of the air, Eph. 2:2. He is the god of this world or of this age, II Cor. 4:4. So he has his subordinates and those that rule over the different portions of this earth as he has appointed them. But in that Day when Christ shall come we read, Dan. 7:18, 22, 27, that the

saints will then take the kingdom. Again in I Cor. 6: 2, 3 we read that we will not only judge the world but judge angels. That is, with Christ we shall determine the degree of punishment that the fallen angels will undergo. With Christ our Head we will rule the world.

Again in Luke 19:17, 19, Jesus spoke in a parable of the kingdom and said to that faithful and good servant: "Well done thou good and faithful servant: because thou hast been faithful in very little, have thou authority over ten cities." So like as the kingdom of this earth, which is now in the thraldom of the Devil under his diabolical sway with his under agents ruling, so then when Jesus will take the kingdom away from him, Christ will then set His faithful to rule and reign with Him according to our faithfulness here at this time.

O this is not only a day to evade Hell! This is not only a day to get your sins forgiven, but a day to be filled with all the fullness of God, until we will be so lost in God, that the world and all earthly cares will not impair our usefulness and make us lopsided in our devotion and fidelity to our Lord. O there is something sweeter than living for self. There is something more satisfying than perishing things. Hallelujah,

### PART SEVEN

## Concluding Remarks and Experiences in the Life of Faith

CHAPTER I

## A PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE LIFE OF FAITH

Some of the foregoing chapters of this book may seem entirely too strong for some into whose hands that this book may chance to come. I cannot tell the extent of the ministry of this book. One thing is true that the Lord has impressed my heart to write it and now as I am nearing the conclusion of it I feel more than at the beginning that the Holy Spirit has prompted me to write it. While much of it has been written under a heavy physical strain and under a heavy pressure of the three daily meetings and all the personal calls of prayer for the sick and those desiring to be saved, I do not and have

not begun the book with any aim at grammatical perfection. But as the great majority of readers today are the common class of people and as such all who will, may understand I feel well repaid, for if all who read can understand then I have accomplished my purpose so far as literary skill is concerned.

Many times the Holy Spirit has been the sole guide to the words and expressions used, and thus in sending this book forth I am depending entirely on the Holy Spirit to accompany every copy and interpret every sentence and then lead on into the more definite study of the Bible not in any way to supplant it. But it is intended to so whet the appetite for the deeper Truths of the Word of God that the reader will be prompted to read and search the Word of God as the unerring infallible Will of God to man.

The life of faith is a perfectly natural one. That is, it is not natural to the carnal mind. But it is the natural walk of the soul that has surrendered its entire self to Him who has planned all things well. Anything that is natural is something that will come in the regular course of the events. If any one will follow the leadings of the Spirit they will be led on and on in

this great life of faith and satisfaction that the walk with the Lord will be more real than the worldly walk which so many Christians are enduring today.

The Lord is so closely connected with those who will put their entire trust in Him that many things of their lives will be beyond that which can be explained with the tongues which they are now using. Do not be discouraged if your life does not measure up with all that the Bible says the Lord has for you. But go to Him in a child-like way and tell Him all about your troubles. Many Christians feel that they are not entirely pleasing to the Lord and that they must tell some other Christian all about it and try to clean up before they can come and tell the Lord all what is in their hearts. The Lord delights to have you come to Him just as you are all the time. He does not ask us to be satisfied with any less than the "Spirit Filled Life" but He wants you to come to Him with all of those perplexing problems. He knows the need of the heart. He knows all about the heart cry long time before that cry has ever been known to you. How foolish then and how displeasing then it must be to Him to have us to try to get help and tell some one else all about our troubles. Would a parent delight to have the child to go to some one else to tell them of all the needs of that little life. So the Lord wants us to come directly to Him and not to others.

Then He not only knows all about the heart cry, but He knows just how to help us. He knows just what to do so that His blessed spirit can have his right of way in our hearts. We may not know what to do to get rid of all that which has caused us so much trouble. We may not see our way out but He said, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." Even though we do not see our way out of the darkness; it is so precious to know that Jesus does. He knows all about the way. The darkness and the light are both alike unto Him. So in all our ways He says acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.

It is a wonderful Truth that the Lord has our life all planned. That is, He has a blueprint for every one. The very best He has chosen for the one who will only dare to trust Him completely. It remains yet to be seen what the Lord can do with the one who is wholly and unreservedly yielded to Him. Many times we think we see something unpleasant approaching

our lives. We may try to dodge that which we know to be the Saviour's will.

But we will find that wherever we have taken our own course and not followed Him fully that we have always chosen wrong and that the Lord's way was always the best way. So the only safe way is to trust Him fully for all and everything in life. He knows the end from the beginning. He can choose from an angle that we cannot see. "O 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word, just by simple faith to plunge me, just to know thus saith the Lord."

As you read these pages there may be a great need in your life. You may be longing to have this blessed Saviour to lead your way. Your heart may be crying after the Living God. You may be in a great sickness and some terrible disease may have fastened its ugly clutches on you. In all of this He is more than Victor. O do not be afraid to trust in Him. Do not be afraid to put yourself entirely into His loving hands. His love to you far out passes that of your mother. He longs to help you as no one else can help you. Regardless of what it is that is weighing your heart down, just give yourself fully to Him. For He says: "Be careful for

nothing but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Never let the enemy make you believe that the Saviour does not love you. You may have had many grievances. But we read he whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Even though you may have sinned and grieved His loving tender heart again and again do not despair. The enemy wants you to go so deep into sin and then he will turn on you and say you have gone so far and that there is no more hope for you. Remember Jesus Himself said "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." He means you. He loves you. He is interested in you.

It may be that after the Lord has gathered His Bride home that this book will fall into the hands of some one who has been careless and has missed the rapture. I have a special word for you, although I will be a million miles away from you at the time that you may read this. The Lord very definitely tells us that there will be a great company of Gentiles converted

during these awful days. And although the days of persecution are upon you do not despair. He will help you through to the end. Even in the martyr's crown there will be a joy that you cannot afford to miss. Do not cast away your confidence which hath great recompence of reward. He loves you and is there at your side to help you. He died for you. He paid the price of death for your soul. He knows your need for body, soul and spirit and will supply according to His riches in Christ Jesus.—Amen.



